

# The Patron of Husbandry



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**The Patron of Husbandry.**  
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A great responsibility rests upon the leaders of our Order in this State. They performed their duty well and faithfully at the recent State Grange meeting, and now to make that work effective they must labor earnestly and zealously in their respective Granges. The farmers must be aroused, their interest in the cause kept alive, by the efforts and the example of the leaders. If these will keep at work in the Grange hall and through the columns of the Grange press, they can keep up a steady onward movement in the State throughout the entire year. The members of the Grange ought to stand by it like men, and make it in truth the representative organization of intelligent, fearless men, who know their rights and interests and are determined to enforce and protect them.

**Co-operation.**  
It is a mistaken idea that any enterprise can be carried on successfully on a co-operative plan, or that it is desirable to apply the principle to every business or occupation in life. Some of our one-idea leaders have simply gone daft on this subject, and in their unwisdom attempt to get up all sorts of co-operative schemes they are not only injuring the cause of co-operation but bringing it into disrepute and contempt. Co-operation is yet in its infancy in this country. It has been successfully applied in merchandizing only, and in many instances it has failed in that from causes which we will endeavor to point out in this article.

It is wrong and impolitic for the members of a Grange to attempt an enterprise on the co-operative plan unless such enterprise is a necessity and of such a character as will clearly assure a profitable return to the investors above its necessary expenses. If the members of the Grange can purchase a better plow or wagon at less rates than they can have it manufactured, it would be extremely unwise for them to establish a co-operative factory for their production simply because it may be to the personal interest of one or more Patrons to start such an enterprise, and this is true of any article which the farmer requires. It is only where an article of prime necessity is sold at extortionate rates and can not be purchased at a fair price in the ordinary business channels that the members of the Order would be justifiable in going to the expense of establishing a factory on the co-operative plan for its production.

The application of the co-operative principle to merchandizing has been successful, aside from the inexpensiveness of the system, because the merchants, by co-operating together, put up prices, and there is profit in almost every article that is dealt in. If the merchant would sell pure goods at a fair profit there would be no necessity for a co-operative store, but this he will not do, and self-protection forces the customers to combine for the establishment of a store upon a different system and which will protect their interests. Merchandizing on the co-operative plan is practical and necessary because there is a universal demand for articles that make up the necessities of life—a demand that is known to exist, and which justifies the establishment of stores to meet it. It is this demand that enables a Co-operative Association to rely upon certain results in establishing a store, and if the demand does not exist in a particular locality, or if

the co-operative store could not sell upon better terms than the ordinary merchant does, then it would be foolish to establish such stores, for it would result in disaster. And this is true of any co-operative enterprise. There must be a demand from the farmers for the goods to be sold or the articles manufactured sufficient to justify the establishment of a co-operative store or factory or other enterprise.

The Rochdale co-operative system has been thoroughly tested both in England and this country, and has met every requirement of merchandizing whenever its principles were rigidly adhered to. Mistakes have been made, the plain teachings of the system ignored, and failures were the natural result. In many instances the stores were placed in the hands of incapable or dishonest men, broken-down merchants and farmers, who had never succeeded at anything, and their failure was but a question of time. If a man cannot succeed at merchandizing, or at the law, or politics, or farming, he will be very apt to fail at the head of a co-operative enterprise. We feel sure that most of the failures of co-operative enterprises can be traced to the incompetency or the dishonesty of the men entrusted with their management, and this will be the case to the end of the chapter.

To succeed at co-operation then, the manager must be a man of capacity and integrity, and there must exist a clearly-defined demand for the enterprise. Any one can succeed splendidly on paper with any kind of a co-operative enterprise, but there are few comparatively who can build up and carry on such an enterprise successfully. If the failures are attributable mainly to incompetency or dishonesty, it will be found that the successful co-operative enterprises have capable and honest men at their head—men who succeed at everything they undertake.

The Grange leaders have not used the columns of the Grange press as freely as they should have done. The officers of State Granges especially ought to speak to people through its columns regularly.

A big defalcation has been discovered in Tennessee. The State Treasurer, M. T. Polk, has used over \$400,000 of the public funds. We give particulars of the affair in other columns. The defaulting Treasurer is a nephew of President Polk. He was captured in Texas and is now in jail at Nashville.

Philadelphia has a co-operative store with sales now amounting to \$250,000 per annum, and paying 6 per cent dividends to the shareholders. It was begun eight years ago by several men who worked in a factory, and thought it would be a good idea to cheapen provisions by buying in lots and then dividing. They formed a little society, and kept their stock in a room of a member's residence. Next they hired a small store, and from that the business has grown to its present importance.

A Washington special to the New Orleans Picayune says the vote in the House on the civil-service-reform bill was divided as follows: Affirmative—103 Republicans, 50 Democrats and 2 Greenbackers; negative—41 Democrats, 5 Republicans and 1 Greenbacker. The special says: "Of the members who have supported and voted for the bill, a large number speak of it in private talk as really amounting to nothing. The bill is certainly understood very differently by those who supported it, the Republicans believing that it retains their party in office, no matter how the Presidential election may go, and the Democrats that it leaves the Executive power of removal wholly unchanged."

**The Pennsylvania State Grange.**  
At the recent splendid meeting of the Pennsylvania State Grange, Past Master Piolett made a strong, eloquent speech, which we print below. It will be read by Patrons in other States with great interest and pleasure.

**Worthy Master, Ladies and Gentlemen:** I very much wish that some other person had been designated to make the acknowledgments of the State Grange to the gentleman who has so truthfully portrayed the great interest that we represent; but the Master has given his order that I should do this, and having myself occupied his place and exacted obedience to my orders, now when we have changed positions I obey. [Turning to Mr. Hildrup:] Sir, as the representative of these women and men who have listened to your admirable expositions of the principles of our Order, I thank you most heartily. You are welcomed among us as having been the first among the very first to realize the importance of the Grange organization—the only organization which the agricultural interest of this country ever had or which that of any country ever had. Until the advent of Grangers there was not in the history of the civilized world a single instance in which the agricultural people attempted to organize as such; and here let me say that I presume if I were to take my seat at this moment, I would be in view as they would by anything I can give in hours of talk.

This is our tenth annual meeting of the State organization. You are aware that we could not make a State organization until we had a certain number of subordinate organizations. Although we feel that the farmers have been derelict in not embracing this organization with greater alacrity and readiness, still we recognize that we have made commendable progress. We have awakened those of our own class to an appreciation of the importance of encouraging such intimate social and business relations among ourselves as would, in a measure, compensate for the disadvantages of our comparatively isolated manner of life. We could not have farms in the towns and cities. Indeed it has been well said that generally where there is a town or city there is a good farm spoiled [laughter]; and not only have we to live in the country, but we have to labor, on an average, thirteen or fourteen hours of the twenty-four. It seems that it is impossible for a farm establishment to be conducted without this extraordinary amount of labor—an expenditure of effort not common to any of the industries of the country other than our own. This is accounted for not only upon the fact alluded to by the gentleman who preceded me, but which is the great fountain from which all the industries annually receive their recruits—not only do we constitute the great conservative reservoir which serves to keep society in order—but we are the whole animal creation depends upon our toil and our care—and it is quite as much of a task to rear them as it is to nurture our own species. Herein we have a labor and a responsibility that do not come within the purview of any other industry; and when listening to remarks such as were uttered by the gentleman who preceded me, I feel that the Grange, in its progress, is indeed leaving the imprint of its influence upon our own times. [Applause.]

We have this year, added to our numbers more than one thousand members. One thousand farmers who had never before come within our Grange and are satisfied and pleased with its purposes. We propose to go on increasing, and we propose, moreover, as we progress, to meet boldly every exigency that arises. This leads me to inquire, what is it, farmers, that stands in our way—what is the evil from which we seek relief? It is the same that has made the task of the farmer an onerous one in all ages of civilization. It is the evil of unequal representation and its immediate consequence, unequal tax. It is the story of every government that has had an existence, that its burdens have been thrown upon the agricultural class, and that this class has been unreasonably and unfairly dealt with. This has been done by the force of law. It has been done arbitrarily and by no better warrant than that by which it

was attempted to force the American colonies into subjection to a distant and foreign government. When we investigate the condition of the agricultural classes of the world, and particularly of that class in our own country, we find that there are laws upon our statute books which are not sanctioned by any principle known to republican government or enunciated in the creation of free government. We therefore mean to agitate this question, and by our voice, and what is more potent, by our votes, to teach all other classes that we must be allowed to stand upon a broad plane of equality with every other industry and with every other class of our fellow-citizens. [Applause.] We mean to vote for good men and we mean to make use of our organization for just laws. We make no war upon any rights that are secured under the shield of statutory provisions, but we demand justice and equality before the law. We know that we do organize, that when we go forth to the polls we assert and secure our rights, that we can make the law of the country, like the law of heaven, fall upon all measures of impolicy.

Now, we do not mean when we go to the polls we will vote for a certain and

res man- edy, of the Grange. I need not say more concerning discipline and dormancy in State Granges. I need not say that decline in the early days of our organization, often followed the admission of the ignorant and the uneducated into the Grange, except that which would work to individual interests, and to selfish advancement politically or otherwise. If the Grange could not be controlled in these channels, then they sought its destruction. Neither is it necessary to repeat the mistake made in those days by organizing too many Granges, neglecting to give proper instructions, erroneous teachings in the lecture work, etc. I prefer to confine myself to the more recent work of officers, to which my attention has been so often called. There are many instances where individuals have sought office in the Grange, and after being elected and installed, either through timidity, embarrassment or neglect, did but little work. After their induction into office they appeared perfectly content in doing nothing and acted as though the work of the Grange was fully completed, as their own object and views of the Grange had been accomplished. Office they wanted, office they got, and supposed they had nothing more to do, their doing nothing brought the Grange into decline.

How can a Grange keep up its prosperity, or even sustain ordinary life, when its Master seeks no higher ambition than simply to learn to open its meetings somewhat in conformity with the regulations? call the Order to business, and then inquire whether the laborers are completed, and the Overseer replies in the affirmative? Does this infuse interest, when all know that no work whatever has been done at this sitting, except to open and call the Order to business, and the Grange is then closed? Assuredly, all will return home realizing that nothing has been done at that session. No one has attempted to teach anything, and no one has learned anything. Some may have traveled two, five or more miles and lost half a day's time, some may have sacrificed in order to attend, but see no good accomplished. What is the cause? Education is the cornerstone upon which we are to build the future destiny and welfare of the Order. Education in the Grange is the conveying of information from one to another, as it may be gathered up by the members from time to time, and taken to Grange meetings, and there turned into common property, then considered, discussed and made available to every member, and more so to the members of the Order provided for a Lecturer in the Subordinate Grange, who is the main educator, and whose duty it is at every Grange meeting, whenever time will permit, to introduce useful and practical questions, lead

in the discussion and solicit others to follow, in order to have the subjects well considered. But we are told in many Granges if the Lecturer attends he sits with his tongue tied, and not a word is heard from him during his entire year of service. Does any one suppose that the members of such a Grange are educating themselves? What is the intellectual improvement at the end of the year? Could anything else but decline be expected under such a state of things? I have even found Subordinate Granges whose officers would not take any pains to secure the new annual word, apparently content with an old one, which disqualified them from receiving visiting members. Decline in such cases is just as certain as that neglect is practiced. It is a fact, established beyond all doubt, that decline and dormancy are largely attributable to neglect and irregularities practiced by officers in Subordinate Granges.

Neglect of Grange literature is the next prominent cause of decline. Wherever Grange literature has been neglected there you find the Order at a low ebb. On the other hand, where Grange papers have a good circulation, there do we find the prosperous, live, working Grange. I have found this so often illustrated, and in so many places, that I am led to believe there is scarcely any exception to the rule.

Patrons of the Pennsylvania State Grange, has just issued an address to the Patrons of his State, from which we take the following. His suggestions will be interesting to the Patrons of other States:

You have of your own free will unanimously re-elected me as the Executive officer of the State Grange for the term of two years. Allow me to thank you for this renewed expression of your confidence. It shall be my highest ambition to perform the duties of Master acceptably, and to the best interest of the Order. I hope the same spirit may pervade our entire organization, from the highest to the lowest officer and membership. If we are united our Order must flourish. Let all private animosities, therefore, if any should exist, give place to "peace and good fellowship." Let all true Patrons, with the close of the past year, bury and forget its failures and misunderstandings; and with true manliness and womanliness give the fault of others a "remembering that they who refuse forgiveness break the bridge over which they themselves must pass."

We are entering upon a new year, and I wish you an abundant success. Important duties will devolve upon every Patron. The grand success of the past year should inspire every member to renewed effort. We can readily add 2,000 members to our Order in Pennsylvania during the coming year. If every Grange will only add five or ten it will make many more than the number named. How easily we can do this! Let every member call on his neighbor and have a friendly talk over the matter. You will be surprised how nearly your views are alike, and before you leave he will be ready, with his wife, to sign your papers. Then there is your friend who has been harassed by some unpleasant affair and has become delinquent. He will come back if you will approach him in a friendly way, and I almost forgo to mention the children and young folks. They wish to come, and will if you truly encourage them. How many are over fourteen years, the required age, that would rejoice to be enrolled as Patrons! There is not a school with equal advantages to be found in the country where tuition is so low—only \$1.20 a year.

This is a comparatively leisure time of the year among farmers, when they have time to meet together and talk together over the best interests of their pursuits.

**DORMANT GRANGES.**  
Dormant Granges should now be reorganized, where nine men and four women can be found who are desirous to be reinstated. Where a dormant Grange can not be reorganized, and there is not another Grange convenient, those who wish to retain their connection with the Order, not exceeding three in number from any one dormant Grange, may receive a State Grange demit by applying to the State Secretary

and the payment of \$1.20, said demit to hold good until the next annual meeting of the State Grange. It is earnestly urged upon Deputies and members of the Order to use their utmost influence to get all delinquent members reinstated.

**How to Make Grange Meetings Interesting.**  
Read before Pescadero Grange, Cal., by Bro. J. C. Steele, and sent to the California Patron for publication.

How to make our Grange meetings interesting and profitable, is a subject so broad in its application that it reaches every member of the Subordinate Grange; for every member has an individuality to unfold and strengthen by culture. To make the most of ourselves, every faculty must be properly exercised, for development is the result of exercise. Those who only exercise their animal faculties are low, vulgar, mean; those who fail to exercise their intellectual faculties are dull and stupid, while those whose moral faculties are undeveloped are unprincipled. To secure happiness and the best state of society, the moral power must dominate and all the other faculties act in harmony with it. United effort to gain this desirable state is certainly praiseworthy. Agriculture being the natural foundation of human improvement, the Grange was organized by its votaries as a sequence; for like begets like, and improvement once fairly started can never cease. Progress is the law of our being; but to the individual it will be slow or rapid in proportion to the effort made to gain understanding, the beauties of a universe spread out from every soul-center to be explored and comprehended. How pleasant it would be to go hand in hand, gathering immortal truths to be garnered in undying consciousness; and who so happy as that one who contributes some of general knowledge that facilitates progress, and thus secures to others unending good. Small things are not trifles; joy and sorrow are made of mere incidents, and what seems hardly worthy of notice by a careless observer, may revolutionize a State. The men who founded this great Republic were contemptuously styled rag-tags and bob-tails by the haughty Britons they drove from our shores. Right is the only thing that will eventually wave over every sea and in every clime; and whoever supports it is backed by the energy of Infinite Power. Men may fail; principles, never.

With these thoughts ever fresh in mind, Patrons of Pescadero Grange, let us each and every one be up and eager for a thought laden with good for our Order, remembering that work performed with a good motive is ennobling, is pleasant. Sociability in the Subordinate Grange offers the opportunity for the cultivation of fraternal affection, and of union in a true brotherhood, unity of action will be easy, and improvement being the motive for unity, every subject affecting the welfare of our members and our country is before us for investigation and analysis through the searching power of thought, to be organized into a grand and noble system should have no place here. Faults and failings must be viewed in the light of rudimentary defects, to be outgrown and corrected. Let us feel that in the Grange hall we are in the loving presence of those whose love desire is to help us to a higher standpoint, from which we may view a glorious universe, realizing the fact that it is composed of particles arranged and to be re-arranged by spiritual power, and that we are individualized spirits, laboring in fields susceptible of unending improvement.

Agriculture is in its infancy. Let us experiment, note results and compare notes in the Grange, and at every meeting put something of value on the Grange record for future reference. Domestic economy, improved methods in household management, the culture of fruits and flowers, amusements for the young, plans to increase happiness everywhere, are subjects worthy to be considered and put in practice by the Grange.

It is recommended that every member of the Grange keep a notebook always within reach, to contain all suitable material for the Grange record, to be put in proper form, read in the Grange and made a part of its reach. Practice makes perfect, and this discipline is well calculated to induce ac-

curate thinking and to hold the mind to subjects worth thinking upon. The Grange is a school; its members are simple pupils, and none should be ashamed of doing their best. If those who have stood in the background will come forward with a will, and follow the course here indicated, they will see a brighter light in the Grange, and astonish themselves with their own improvement.

**Selling Cotton Seed.**  
The rapid increase of cotton seed oil mills in the South has already created a scarcity of seed to keep them all in operation, and made the planters somewhat firm in demanding an advance in the price paid by the mills for their seed. The editor of the *Tradesman*, of Chattanooga, has this to say on the subject: It is questionable among cotton planters whether it is economical in the end to sell their seeds to the oil mills, and there are many planters who have persistently refused to sell a pound. As a fertilizer its value is so well known that they prefer to return the overplus to the ground. Hence, the combination that has recently been entered into among cotton seed crushers along the Mississippi to fix the price of oil seed at \$11 is being met by the planters in a spirit of determined opposition. They claim that the seed is worth at least \$15, and that the supply is not so large as to warrant a fixed lower price at this time. The combination of seed is increasing with great rapidity, so great that it is thought the crushers have calculated without due consideration of the law of supply and demand, the fixed price determined by the crushers alone. In this connection a meeting of the former was held at Brunswick Point, Warren county, Mississippi, recently, to take action in this regard. At this meeting it was decided and agreed not to sell cotton seed under a compulsory price, and to store the seed, or use it as a fertilizer until better terms could be agreed upon, or to sell the seed to the combination, which it seems extends from New Orleans to St. Louis. One of the concluding resolutions adopted at this meeting referred to a prevailing sentiment in plain terms. It read as follows:

"Resolved, That in conclusion we wish to give notice to combinations of every description, whether cotton seed or otherwise, that we are no longer perfectly able to take care of ourselves; we can sell our products to whom we please, and for a fair price, and we do not propose that the price for the same shall be fixed by any combination which plainly shows itself inimical to our vital interests."

Whoever thinks about it at all will agree that this cry of "combination" is altogether a new thing at the South. But so naturally do combinations follow trade currents that it will not surprise any one to learn of this or other combinations following the development of new industries at the South. This section has simply ahead of it the same or like experiences that have marked the course of manufacturers at the East. There has always been, there must continue to be warfare between the producer and the manufacturer, as there is continuous rivalry between the same difficulties that seem to be attending the development of the cotton seed industry may be expected to a greater degree in all other new and undefined interests that are likely for the future to follow in rapid succession throughout the Southern States. There is no way known how this difficulty may be evaded. One thing, the bitter may be regulated. It is the bitter, it is sometimes compromise, the only safe and wise means by which these unfamiliar questions may be adjusted. It is a bad time for combinations beyond all doubt, but it is also a good time for a lack of a spirit of compromise on the part of the producer. It will require the combined labors of both the producer and manufacturer to open these new industries and bring them to a healthy maturity.

The cotton crop of Mississippi in 1882 was 971,794 bales. Louisiana will grow more sugar this year than ever before. The Wesson cotton mills of Mississippi pay their employees \$11.000 per month.