

Work of State Grange

COLVILLE, Wash., June 6.—The 25th annual session of the Washington State grange concluded its four days' labor tonight after an unusually interesting period of work. The resolution indorsing a commission form of government in the state provoked the most spirited debate of any question presented and it passed by a large majority. The proposed measure provides for abolishment of all state officers except governor, secretary of state and auditor, and for the election of three commissioners from each congressional district to serve the year around as advisory to the governor and to take the place of the legislature as the law-making body.

A resolution favoring the removal of the tariff on all farm products, and raising of revenue by income, inheritance tax and increased internal revenue fund instead was passed almost unanimously. The attitude of the grange on this matter may be better understood by referring to the extract from State Master Kegley's annual address. The state master took the position of "free trade for one, free trade for all." Let us stand steadfast to this and appeal to farmers everywhere to join with us and wipe every tariff privilege off the books now and forever.

A resolution favoring the removal of the tariff on all farm products and the raising of revenue by income, inheritance tax and increased internal revenue schedules instead was passed almost unanimously. Another resolution advocated the issuance of local bonds to be used as a basis for currency issue by the government and to be legal tender; a resolution advocating the abolishment of trial by jury was defeated by an almost unanimous vote.

Other resolutions indorsed the extension work of the Washington State college; urged a closer study by farmers of the monetary system; urged grange members to maintain a non-partizan attitude in politics and favored candidates pledged to publicity in all public official matters.

Another resolution urged that the United States government issue a daily report of market conditions, as is now done by the weather bureau.

Statewide co-operation in buying and marketing and a boycott on all newspapers carrying advertisements of whisky, tobacco and drugs were favored.

The legislative committee was authorized to institute a searching investigation of the record of all members of the last legislature on questions touching the interests of farms and report to the next state grange and to submit the statewide prohibition to voters of the state.

The committee on agriculture indorsed the plan to bring P. C. Holden to the Inland Empire to demonstrate growing crops. Physical valuations of the property of all railways and other common carriers was advocated.

The committee on irrigation was assigned to prepare and recommend a new code of water laws for the state. The committee on pure foods demanded more active enforcement of the pure food laws by better inspection service and recommended the removal of druggists' restrictions on the sale of strychnine in the original

package.

The committee on education recommended a short agricultural course at the Washington State College, favoring three months in each year for two years.

The legislative committee submitted a resolution favoring an alien land ownership law substantially the same as that passed by the California legislature, and this was adopted by an overwhelming majority and with applause. The grange declared against fees required of candidates for office before the primary, but advocated a law requiring all lobbyists before the legislature to register, pay a fee and file a statement of authority to act and by whom employed.

One resolution urges an educational campaign on township organization and advocates the question be submitted throughout the state at the next election.

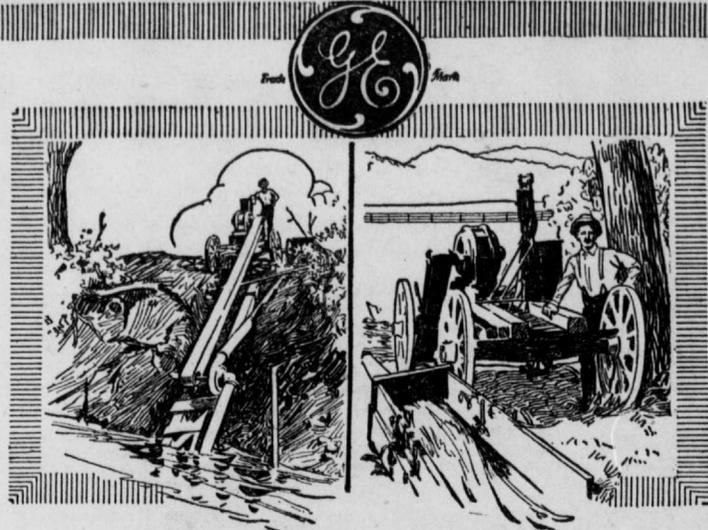
COVER CROPS FOR ORCHARDS.

As a cover crop in the orchard, hairy vetch has proved itself to be by far the most satisfactory nitrogen-gathering cover crop that we can use here in the Northwest. Coming up as it does immediately after sowing, and continuing to grow until cold weather sets in, and in this way forming a low, dense mat before winter, which is capable of holding leaves, trash, etc., and thus preventing washing during the winter, it is a valuable crop in spring it starts into growth early, and by the last of April or first of May, it has produced from five to twelve tons of green manure per acre.

The fall or winter injury so common in young orchards in some localities is often in part due to the late growth of young trees, which causes them to go into winter with a full flow of sap, and a lot of unmaturing wood in the stems, which is killed by the first heavy frost in the late fall, or early winter. This can be readily overcome by the systematic use of cover crops which will take up the surplus water and available plant food late in the summer and early in the fall, and in this manner cause the wood and buds to mature early. The cover crop should be sown just before the early fall rains, or following late summer rains, usually from the middle of August to the latter part, or early in September.

The benefits of a cover crop in the orchard are enumerated as follows:

1. It directly improves the physical condition of the soil by the addition of humus and the loosening up of the subsoil by root action.
2. It prevents hard soils from cementing and clay soils from padding.
3. It makes the soil more moist by holding the snows and rains until they have had a chance to soak into the soil.
4. By drying out the soil in spring it makes early tillage possible.
5. It serves as a protection of tender roots from frost.
6. It catches and holds the easily lost nitrates of which trees are not in need at that season of the year.
7. It renders plant food more available by root action and the decomposition of humus.
8. By the addition of humus it makes cultivation and irrigation



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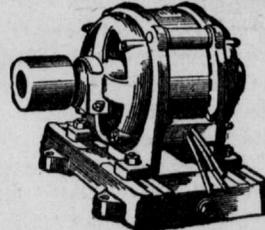
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9. The leguminous cover crops add plant food by appropriating the nitrogen of the air and storing it up in the roots of the plants.

10. It checks the growth in the fall and causes the wood to completely ripen up, thus preventing fall or winter injury.

11. It prevents erosion on steep orchard lands.

12. It keeps weeds down and catches and holds the leaves of the trees.

13. A series of cover crops on alkali orchard lands will very material-

ly reduce the quantity of alkali that comes to the surface.

O. M. MORRIS,
Head of Department of Horticulture.

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