

THE GRANGE

Conducted by J. W. DARROW,
Press Correspondent, New York State
Grange

NATIONAL GRANGE.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION AT ROCHESTER, N. Y.

In a Strong Address National Master Aaron Jones Urges the Extension of Agricultural Education - Remarks on Farming in General and Its Decline.

The national grange, Patrons of Husbandry, opened its thirty-seventh annual session at Rochester on Nov. 11. The local committee, aided by the chamber of commerce, had prepared an excellent programme for the public meeting. Mayor Rodenbeck gave an address of welcome, which was responded to by National Master Hon. Aaron Jones of Indiana. Governor N. J. Bachelder of Concord, N. H., lecturer of the national grange, spoke most entertainingly on "The Nation." Hon. George A. Benton discussed "Fraternal Societies," and Hon. E. B. Norris, master of the New York state grange, discussed various features of grange work. Music and recitations added much to the pleasure of the meeting.

The executive sessions began on Wednesday morning, Nov. 11, to continue ten days. The national master gave his annual address, a synopsis of which follows.

On education the national master said: "Public opinion is becoming more and more pronounced each year in favor of nature studies and elementary principles of agriculture being taught in our public schools. I believe that in the near future this feature will become a part of our public school system. Every grange in the United States should, in fact and in practice, be a school for the practical demonstration of the possibilities of the farm; it should be a farmers' institute, a literary society teaching practical agriculture and developing trained minds."

On the subject of co-operation among farmers he stated: "I am more and more convinced that the time has come when the farmer must provide for the distribution and sale of the products of the farm. Shall farmers longer depend upon others, petitioning legislators and congress to enact laws and await the delays and uncertainty of the courts enforcing them to protect their rights, or shall farmers get together in a lawful, orderly, business way to guard their rights, as other great interests are guarded and protected? Farmers should provide granaries and storage on their farms and not be compelled to rush their products into public elevators and into the hands of speculators."

On agriculture in general Mr. Jones said that "notwithstanding the industry, frugality and energy of the 5,800,000 sturdy farmers and the aid rendered by the department of agriculture, agriculture has not expanded and prospered as other great lines of industries have done. The treasury bureau says that the increase of agricultural production in thirty years was 92.1 per cent, while the export during the same time increased 131.8 per cent. The production of manufactured articles was enlarged 209.1 per cent, while exports of manufactures increased 537.7 per cent during the same thirty years."

"In 1856 farmers owned 55.59 per cent of the entire wealth of the nation. In 1900 they owned only 21.27 per cent of the wealth of the nation; thus farmers are losing their relative position in the wealth and production of the nation. If this be true, it is our duty to investigate and discover the causes that have contributed to this condition and aid in their remedy or removal. If found that the laws have discriminated and contributed to this condition, amend or repeal them; if it be found that combinations of capital or labor unions, excessive and discriminating transportation charges are some of the causes, correct these abuses."

An Excellent Programme.

We give the following outline programme of the Middlesex-Worcester-Pomona, held Oct. 7, as one almost ideal in its makeup of topics: Papers were prepared on "Lily Culture," by Mrs. J. R. Shattuck; "How to Bud Trees," by F. G. Pratt; "Butter Making," by C. N. Sayles; "Adulterations in Food," by Mrs. Clara Barry; "Butter of Different Nations," by Mrs. C. F. Watts; "Lee as a Necessity," by W. S. Parker; "Angora Goats," by John Woodredge, and "Good Things Made From Corn," by Miss Jennie Howard. A discussion was also held on "Should the salaries of government officials be placed on a basis of similar service in private business?" Two outside speakers were secured—Mr. G. H. Frost of Newton, who spoke on "Ornamental Planting For Country Homes," and Mrs. E. F. Boland of Boston, who gave a pleasing address on "Woman's Responsibility to the State."

Successful Patrons' Insurance Company.

One of the successful mutual fire insurance companies of the state is the Patrons' Mutual Fire Insurance company (limited) of Lenawee county, Mich. They have now at risk \$1,765,000, a gain of \$100,000 since last annual meeting, Jan. 12, 1903. The last assessment was made Sept. 19, 1902, of 75 cents per \$1,000. Since that date the total losses have been but 60 cents per \$1,000. The first policy issued is dated Aug. 30, 1897. Since that date the total assessments have been \$6.05, or an average of about \$1 per \$1,000 each year.

THE STATE GRANGE.

Report of the Committee on State Grange Legislation, 1903.

Report of legislative committee of Pennsylvania State Grange, WILKES-BARRE, Dec. 10, 1903. Worthy Master and Members of the Pennsylvania State Grange:

The legislative committee of this body desires to report that we have during the past year careful consideration to legislation affecting the agricultural interest of Pennsylvania. During the session of the legislature of 1903 your committee prepared and was instrumental in having introduced several bills and amendments that were in accord with the instructions of this body one year ago.

TAXATION.

In the matter of equalization of taxation the tendency of the last legislature was to make still more glaring the existing inequalities. This was done by passing laws which in their operation will materially increase local taxation.

In our report submitted one year ago we quoted at length from the current State reports, showing the appraised value of real estate to be \$2,776,829,685, upon which taxes were paid to the amount of \$14,434,937.83, making an average tax rate of 16 mills. While it is argued by some that real estate is not rated at its full value for tax purposes it will be found that farm land and small homes are assessed at more nearly their full value than are many real estate properties in towns and cities. This same inequality exists to a greater extent in the assessed valuation compared with the actual value of large corporations subject to local taxation, among which we name coal lands and manufacturing properties. Many of these are not assessed at over 4 per cent of their real value.

Our report of last year further states that the aggregate, estimated, appraised value of corporate and personal property is \$4,725,469,277.08, upon which taxes are paid to the amount of \$14,061,474.08, making the average tax rate on these forms of property to be 3 mills.

Therefore we reiterate that the State must either assume a larger proportion of the local burdens or relinquish a large number of subjects for local taxation, as it is unfair to exact an average of but 3 mills on personal and corporate property, while real estate is required to pay 16 mills. In support of this position your committee had bills introduced at the last session of the legislature providing that the mercantile licenses and retail liquor licenses and the one-fourth part of the personal property tax now paid to the State be retained by the counties. All these bills were pigeon-holed in the committee. There are other license taxes which should be retained by the counties. This would result in lowering county taxes and the condition of the State Treasury warrants us in taking this position, for according to report there was on Dec. 1 a balance of over fifteen millions of dollars in the State Treasury. Under present laws this surplus is of no relief to the local taxpayer, while it breeds extravagance and corruption in State affairs. A large sum of this money is license taxes as shown by the auditor general's report of 1902, which gives the amount of these taxes as follows:

Retail mercantile license	\$632,303.05
Wholesale mercantile license	240,114.93
Retail liquor license	625,358.72
Wholesale liquor license	513,305.29
Brewers' license	270,121.15
Distillers' license	41,174.53
Buttlers' license	160,296.27
Billiard license	54,459.66
Brokers' license	30,606.40
Auctioneers' license	16,602.17
Peddlers' license	5,317.30
Theatre license	22,617.25
Eating house license	28,413.25

Or a total license tax of	\$2,046,350.37
Add to this [of the personal property tax now retained by the State	\$ 882,344.25
Tax on county loans	154,720.64
Tax on municipal loans	106,245.05

Total.....\$3,789,660.31
This amount the State can well afford to leave in the counties and municipalities. We can see no reason why the merchant, who uses the schools, roads, etc., the same as the farmer, pays his tax to the State while the farmer pays his to the local authorities. The same is true of the license taxes. The personal property tax is mostly raised from judgments and mortgages held on real estate which is already overtaxed. Therefore, in our opinion, real estate should have the advantage of whatever tax reduction it yields in retaining all of the personal property tax by the counties. The tax on county and municipal loans is a tax on a debt incurred for public improvement and should be paid and retained by the counties or municipalities.

ROAD LEGISLATION.

Your committee with others worked industriously to carry out the instructions of this body as expressed in previous years. We believe our position on the road question is right. Ever since the foundation of the government the farmers have built and maintained the roads at the expense of the farms. This practice was established when agriculture represented nearly all the wealth of the State. This burden

is still imposed upon the farmers, although they are less than one-sixth of the State's population, and other interests have vastly outstripped us in wealth. All our past and present road legislation has had the effect of adding to the taxes on the farms, while the census of 1900 shows that the value of the farm lands of Pennsylvania with their improvements have decreased in the last ten years nearly \$24,000,000. Thousands of farms, if put up at public sale, would hardly bring what it would cost to replace the buildings on them. There are more abandoned farms in our State today than ever before.

All the people have equal rights to the public roads and we can not understand why the farmers should alone have been compelled to build and maintain them. Good roads are also of equal importance to all interests, therefore no class of property should refuse to assist in paying for them. When in support of this position your legislative committee asked the legislature to tax personal and corporate property, including manufacturing corporations, the small sum of 1 mill for road purposes the legislature failed to pass it. Such a tax would yield at least two and one-half million dollars annually. Under our present system of taxation we still contend that this is the right way to raise money from these interests for road purposes. It must be kept in mind that good roads cost money and lots of it.

The legislature at its last session passed a law appropriating \$500,000 per year for the next two years for good roads, yet in its operation it will greatly increase local taxes, but adds no tax on these forms of property that have never yet paid for good purposes. Some of the arguments, appearing in our newspapers under the guise of good roads, made to the effect that the farmers are blind to the advantages of good roads, are a fallacy. We farmers do understand the advantages of good roads as well as anybody, but we are not deluded by a paltry \$550,000 appropriation coupled with all its red tape, increased local taxation and loss of local control. In the first place the \$500,000 appropriation represents taxes that have been paid to the State that should never have left the counties, as shown above. To thus collect moneys from localities and to then not allow it to be returned for expenditure in the counties for the public good except it be done under rigid centralized authority is to reflect upon the intelligence and integrity of our citizens. That the government is superior to the people in either virtue or business ability is questionable. In proof that it is not, we refer to the cost and manner in which the State is carrying out that part of road construction already entrusted to her—the building of State bridges. Do the taxpayers wish to encourage jobbery by putting the control of building the roads under such management when one-third of the cost is to be born by the local taxpayers?

If the State wants to improve the principal roads at her expense we have no objections but believe it would be much fairer than the present law. There are about 100,000 miles of public roads in our Commonwealth, 10 per cent of which can be termed as principal or main roads. There is no just reason why poor townships should be taxed to improve and keep in repair these main roads when they are used for inter-county and State commerce. National aid to States for good roads is being discussed. General Miles recommended that part of the standing army be used in building good roads. Here are ideas that the State in conjunction with the federal government could work out and be of great help in getting good roads. The road Act of 1903 has some good features in it, several of which were inserted by your committee, among which are the division of the appropriation according to the township road mileage, a definition of a good road, the right for the people to select the kind of a road they wish to have built, together with several other amendments. Our township road system is very faulty and we recommend a change in the same. We believe that more good roads can be built by getting something done yearly in each of the 1,500 townships in the State than by any other plan, provided we get some State aid, as we had a right to expect when the road Act of 1897 was passed, which is still inoperative because the legislature refuses to grant the appropriation provided for in that law in order to put it into effect.

TROLLEY LEGISLATION.

Your committee according to instructions from this body prepared and introduced a bill in the last legislature to allow trolleys to carry freight. This privilege is granted them in all States except Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Notwithstanding the necessity and help that this would be to the farmers it was smothered in committee. As this is the month in which the triennial assessments are returned to the county commissioners your committee calls the attention of the members of this body to inspect such assessments and see that large corporations subject to local taxation are valued in the same proportion that other real estate is assessed. For it is a noticeable fact that in nearly every section of the

State their valuation is very low. We endorse the action of the National Grange in favor of a parcels post, the further extension of the free rural mail delivery, the establishment of postal savings banks, the granting of interest powers to the interstate commerce commission, and the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people.

Your committee believes that there is no better paying investment than our public schools. The country school house has been and will be the main factor in educating the great mass of our rural population. The township high school is a good thing, the graded country school has many advantages, but we caution our people not to be too fast in disposing of the old rod school houses. Every patron of the country school should give one or two days during the winter in visiting the schools of their district. A little encouragement along this line will pay big returns.

The farmer is not only a producer but a consumer, which makes him bear heavy burdens of indirect taxation. He pays more for some articles than the manufacturer charges the foreigner. This injustice should be corrected. On this subject we can use no stronger language than that of the worthy master of the National Grange, Brother Aaron Jones, who said a year ago:

"Any law in force which enables manufacturers to sell—and they do sell—in foreign countries any manufactured articles at a less price than they sell to American citizens, said law or laws should at once be revised, amended, or repealed, and all such practices made impossible."

At the recent session of the National Grange at Rochester he said: "I again repeat it and assert that if those who have the power to correct these abuses to American citizenship do not correct them, the people should and will correct them."

The high charges of transportation companies and their unjust discrimination should in some way be regulated.

The operations of the trusts have so far proved not only harmful but are robbing the people in every conceivable way. While we are not an advocate of boycotting, we believe it would be to our best interests to patronize so much as possible the few remaining independent manufacturers.

We would suggest that in order to secure the reforms advocated by the Grange that each County Grange appoint a legislative committee to question candidates for the legislature and Congress before they are nominated as to their position on these questions, and accept no doubtful answers.

CONCLUSION.

In making this report we do not want to be misunderstood, as we believe that agriculture is a most honorable vocation. Notwithstanding the many disadvantages named we are alive to the advancement of the interests and rights of agriculture. We believe whatever is done to further these interests is for the good of the whole people. And we further believe that many of our young people are making a mistake in leaving the farm. The Grange offers many opportunities for improvement and advancement. It has accomplished a great deal and can do more for our agricultural interests. A leading agricultural paper says:

"The order of the Patrons of Husbandry stands for what is best in agriculture. More and more are our lawmakers beginning to recognize the power of the Grange. Well they may. No other organization, when it makes its position known, can be held to as fully represent the views of its members. This is why the Grange, when it speaks, speaks with the voice of one having authority, and why our legislators listen. More farmers should join the order."

Respectfully submitted,
W. T. HILL,
S. R. BRUNGES,
WILLIAM T. CREASY, Secretary.

Postoffice Growth.

According to the statistical report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow there has been during the past year a steady increase in post offices and postoffice business. The number of post offices in the country on the 1st of July was 74,169, of which number 242 were first class, 1,107 second class, 3,690 third class and 69,130 fourth class. The rural free delivery routes of the country now number 19,398, which is a most encouraging report for the farmers and others residing in the rural districts. There is no part of the service so popular or beneficial to the people than the rural free delivery routes. They have put the farming communities on a par with the cities and enable the farmer who lives many miles from the nearest postoffice to receive his letters and periodicals with the same regularity enjoyed by the man in the city. In fact

the rural free delivery is a traveling post office, issuing and cashing money orders, selling stamps and affording many other conveniences that in former years necessitated a trip to the post office.

The farmer of the most remote outlying township receives his morning newspaper fresh and crisp with all the news and he can keep as well posted as the man in the city. The post office operations of the country have reached remarkable proportions, and rural free delivery has added wonderfully to the success of the great department.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

—OF VALUABLE—

REAL ESTATE.

Pursuant to an order from the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pennsylvania, the undersigned administrator of B. F. Girtion, deceased, late of Greenwood township, Columbia County, Pennsylvania, will expose to public sale on the premises lately occupied by said deceased, on the road leading from Houtsburg to Unityville, near Derra on

SATURDAY, JAN. 16th, 1904, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day, the following described real estate: All those two certain messuages, tenements and tracts of land situate in Greenwood township, County and State aforesaid, bounded and described as follows to-wit:

No. 1. Beginning at a maple bush, corner of lands of Joseph Redline (formerly Daniel Platt) thence by said lands and lands of John Hantz north fourteen degrees east one hundred and twenty-six perches to a post; thence by lands of the Parker heirs north thirty-seven and one half degrees west thirty-three and two tenths perches to a post; thence south fifty-two and one half degrees east twelve perches to a post; thence south thirty-seven degrees west forty-eight perches to a post; thence north fifty-two degrees west twelve and eight tenths perches to a post; thence south thirty-seven and one half degrees west thirteen and six tenths perches to a post; thence south twenty-seven degrees east sixteen and two tenths perches to a post; thence south nineteen degrees west twenty-four perches to a post; thence by lands of Theodore W. Smith south seventy-six degrees east sixty-eight perches to the place of beginning; containing

43 ACRES and 126 PERCHES of land be the same more or less.

No. 2. Beginning at a hemlock, corner of lands of Joseph Redline; thence by lands of the Watts heirs south seventeen and one half degrees west sixty-five perches to a post; thence by land of the said parties north seventy-four and one half degrees west one hundred and twenty-five perches to a post; thence by lands of Theodore W. Smith north seventeen degrees east sixty-five perches to a post; thence by lands of Joseph Redline south seventy-four and one half degrees east one hundred and twenty-three perches to the place of beginning; containing

FORTY-NINE ACRES, be the same more or less. It being the same premises which George Reese and wife by quitclaim deed conveyed to said B. F. Girtion; said deed being dated February 13th, 1893, and recorded in the Recorder's office of Columbia County on June 27th, 1893 in Deed Book, Vol. No. 47, at page 372, reference being thereunto had will more fully and at large appear.

There is erected on the first above described tract a

FRAME DWELLING HOUSE,

bank barn and all other necessary farm out-buildings. There is about twenty acres of real good timber on the place, and the balance of the land is in a right posture of cultivation. There is plenty of good water on the premises and this is a very desirable farm. All personal property on the premises is reserved, and all grain in the ground is reserved. Deed and surveys if wanted, at the expense of the purchaser. Possession will be given on April 1st, 1904.

TERMS OF SALE: Ten per cent of one fourth of the purchase money to be paid at the striking down of the property, the balance of the one fourth at the confirmation of the sale which will be on February 1st, 1904, and the remaining three-fourths in one year from date of sale with interest.

AMOS NEYHARD, Administrator of B. F. GIRTION, deceased.
GEO. W. DEER, Auctioneer.
CLINTON HERRING, Attorney.

ELECTION NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the policy holders of the Briarcrest Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Lime Ridge, Pa., will be held at the hall of Centre Grange, No. 56, P. O. on Tuesday, January 12th, 1904, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., for the election of twelve directors to serve for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

12-10-03
H. H. BROWN, Secretary.

CHARTER NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Governor of Pennsylvania on Thursday, the seventh day of January, A. D. 1904, by Ross W. Burrows, J. J. Robinson, John Cole and S. C. Creasy, T. E. Hyde, all residents of the State of Pennsylvania, under the Act of Assembly entitled "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of Certain Corporations," approved April 28th, 1874, and of several supplements thereto, for the charter of an intended corporation to be called Bloomsburg Lumber and Manufacturing Company, the character and object of which is the buying and selling and manufacturing and dealing in lumber and articles made of wood and iron and other metals and materials, and for those purposes to have, possess and enjoy all the rights, powers, benefits and privileges of said Act of Assembly and the several supplements thereto.

G. M. TUSTIN,
Solicitor for Applicants.
December 10, 1903.

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