

The Centre Reporter.

VOL. LXXXV.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1912.

NO. 20.

GRANGE COOPERATION AT WORK.

How Conditions Were Improved in an Isolated Town as Seen by a Writer for the Country Gentleman.

[BY JAMES ALVIN.]

A few months ago the Reporter made mention of the fact that Lynn R. Meekins, Esq., a writer for the Country Gentleman, one of the Curtis Company publications, had been in Centre Hall gathering material for an article on cooperation. In the Country Gentleman of May 4th, Mr. Meekins, under the name of James Alvin, writes a two-page description of "Grange Cooperation at Work." There are four illustrations, all of which are well executed. The article, which is well written, is published below.—EDITOR.]

PART II.

There are houses approved by the grange which give discounts to grange customers and from these houses the grangers of Centre Hall purchase a thousand dollar's worth of goods annually. Each member has a trade card which is inclosed with his order and which entitles him to the trade advantages. Cooperative action at Centre Hall secured the wholesale freight rate of \$2.10 when the members formerly paid the retail rate of \$4.40. The single member may have the benefit of the wholesale rate if his package weighs 100 pounds or over. Thus many of them get their groceries by the sack and barrel and their syrups by the barrel. As a rule they buy flour from the local mills. The grange committee by its cooperative bulk-buying saves to the members \$1000 a year, and besides this the members have their individual savings from their purchases from approved houses, and the whole sale freight rate. The purchasing committee also saves 20 per cent. on farm machinery by buying through the executive committee of the state grange. No plan for cooperative selling has been tried, but there is a grange agent in Philadelphia who pays special attention to consignments from members. He charges a commission of 5 per cent.

But the hall and the cooperative buying are only two of the good influences that make life in Centre Hall and its contributing territory worth while. One factor is the Centre County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Patrons of Husbandry. It has been in existence more than a third of a century having been organized in 1874, and the average annual cost of insurance per \$100 for a period of thirty-seven years, including survey, premium and policy, has been 21 cents. Its office is at the home of the secretary, two miles from town. The only salary paid is \$200 a year to the secretary, and each director gets the magnificent sum of one dollar for every meeting he attends.

The organization of this company is representative. Each subordinate grange elects one director and these directors elect the officers. The county Pomona grange elects three auditors who audit the accounts of the board of directors. No one is eligible to any position unless he has property insured in the company, which insures property of members of the grange only. If a man loses his grange membership his policy is revoked. This insurance plan does much to strengthen the grange membership. The saving on insurance rates pays the grange dues many times over.

There are unique features. For instance, if you have a building worth a risk of \$1500 you get \$1000 insurance on it, the idea being that you shall carry a third of the risk. You give the company a premium note of \$50, which covers five years and is the maximum of your assessments. On that note there is assessed at once a premium of 5 per cent., or \$2.50. After that assessments are made only in cases of loss. After five years you get back your note. You have paid on it only what has been necessary to meet the losses. The company will take no risk of more than \$2000 on one building. If the grange members insure in other companies they must notify the grange company. The director who takes the insurance receives \$1 for the survey—that is, for estimating the value of the property; and for writing the policy he collects 26 cents, which the secretary gets. In some years there have been no assessments, but in one year three big barns were burned from the same fire.

On December 31, 1910, the risks in force amounted to \$3,041,453; and during 1911 \$330,657 of new insurance was written, making a total of \$3,372,110. Two adjoining counties, however, Huntingdon and Elk, which had been in the Centre County Company, withdrew and organized companies of their own, thus reducing the Centre County Company's risks more than half. The total income of the company last year was \$5,918.88 and the following list of expenditures, as reported to the department at Harrisburg, is interesting as showing the operations of a farmer's insurance enterprise:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Auditor's pay.....	\$ 8 16
Postage, stationery and printing.....	40 87
Adjusting losses.....	23 48
Director's pay and mileage.....	19 04
Executive committee, pay and mileage.....	66 98
Secretary's salary.....	200 00
Office rent.....	16 00
Writing 164 policies.....	41 00
Unused premiums.....	6 00

Applications rejected.....	10 00
Discount paid.....	18 40
Stock killed by lightning.....	52 00
Joseph Wolf, damage to house by lightning.....	133 00
Small losses by lightning.....	159 00
Small losses by fire.....	96 90
John W. McAlley, house and contents.....	653 40
Alexander Kelley, house and contents.....	720 00
Frank E. Wykoff, barn.....	176 40
Mestons A. Wykoff, house and contents.....	1100 00
M. O. Woodring, house and contents.....	1025 00
John Kelley, trustee of the United Brethren parsonage at Port Matilda.....	398 00
W. J. Hunter, contents of house.....	476 00
Frank Glinther, house and contents.....	1825 00
Traveling expenses of the president to Blair county.....	22 75
Refunding order for assessment.....	4 48

What do you think of a telephone service as good as any in the world for ten dollars a year? It does not seem possible. And yet that is precisely what the farmers of Centre County have secured through cooperative effort. Six years ago two big telephone companies competed in the county. The members of the grange wanted cheap service and went about to get it. They did not have the money, but they used what is even better than money—an idea. On February 12, 1906, they organized the Patrons' Rural Telephone Company and two months later incorporated with a capital of \$10,000. This service was for farmers one mile or more from the borough limits. The company then encouraged the organization of branch companies and soon had enough support to make a definite contract with the Blank Telephone Company, which then had less business in the county than its rival.

The contract was made under these terms: The farmers put up their own poles and wires and made their connections with Blank exchanges. Each man was to pay \$5 a year if he installed his own telephone or \$8 if he got the instrument from the Blank Company. Nearly all have the Blank instruments. They pay \$2 to the branch company for operating and the branch dues to the central company are 50 cents a year for each telephone. Formerly the Blank Company had to send a man through the county to do its collecting. Now all the collecting is done by the Patrons Rural Company and for this it receives from the Blank Company \$1 for each telephone. This goes to the stockholders in the company. The central company pays all taxes, furnishes an attorney free of charge and makes reports to the state and national governments. It is worthy of note that there are no salaries. Each branch company elects one director to the central company. The county grange subscribes for stock in every branch company and elects five members of the directorate. The local grange subscribes to its branch company. So you see the plan of cooperation and representation runs through the whole scheme.

TEN-DOLLAR TELEPHONES.

The success of this plan is remarkable. For ten dollars the farmer has a county-wide telephone service and has all the long-distance connections. Of course he pays extra for the long-distance calls. The grange formulated this plan and has controlled it from the beginning. The first arrangement was made with the Blank company for three years. Two years ago the contract was renewed for three years. The central company is prosperous.

New branches are being added. The way this is done is as follows: Six farmers or more organize and build a pole line to the nearest telephone exchange. Then they own that line and the Blank Company has no control over it. They make their contracts with the Blank Company through the Patrons' Rural Telephone Company. They can put on more telephones as they choose, paying the established rates. They charge non-stockholders more for maintenance than they do the stockholders.

A result of this rural telephone system is that the service is probably the most dependable in existence. Each farmer keeps the line that runs through his property. In case of a storm or interruption from any other cause the exchange quickly locates the point of the trouble and the line is promptly restored. So the three hundred rural telephones mean actually that there are three hundred men available at all times to keep the service open.

Personally I could not help drawing a comparison between this ten-dollar county-wide rate and the telephone bills that are paid by the people of my own home. The usual rate is \$48 a year for a restricted area and the extra run it up to over \$70. It is the same monopoly which the Centre County farmers brought to their own terms. But where I live we do not have cooperation.

Mr. S. W. Smith, the secretary of the company, is the editor of the only newspaper in Centre Hall. We know that the country editor is supposed to do everything free, from births to obituary notices; but here is a work that would usually require the service of a thousand-dollar bookkeeper. I went over Mr. Smith's books and saw the detail. And yet he receives no salary.

This is another illustration of the element of personal service that enters into the cooperative work of a community that is uplifting and modernizing itself.

As we sat in Mr. Smith's office going over the data of the system his telephone bell rang. The call was from a farmer who lives five miles away who 'phoned that his paper had not arrived. In my section that message would have cost the farmer at least ten cents extra even over a forty-eight-dollar line. Over his ten-dollar line it was free; and it would have been free had it come from any other part of Centre County.

The county grange of Centre County is known as Pomona No. 13. It was organized in 1875 and it has a thousand members. Adjoining Centre Hall it owns a 23-acre camp ground that cost \$5000. On this it conducts annual fairs. Last fall there were 3000 entries. It allows no horse-racing, no fakes or dubious shows. It is a clean, comprehensive exhibition that portrays and exalts the farm and its products. But that is not all. Every year it has an encampment. A thousand farmers and families of farmers live in tents and this big white city becomes a center of enjoyment and instruction. There is an auditorium where serious lectures are given every day and at night there are either lectures or entertainments. Crowds attend in the evening.

SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS.

This life brings the farmers and their wives and their sons and daughters and friends into happy social contact and gives new inspiration for the work of the year. The fair and the camp return a profit. So we get to the fact that in all this cooperation endeavor in Centre Hall and Centre county there is safe management.

Let us find an illustration of this in the finances of the county grange. It does not let its surplus lie idle but finds wise investments. For instance, it bought ten shares in a building and loan association that yielded \$326 on an investment of \$730. It reinvested in another local building association and its \$730 is now worth \$1500 and is increasing in value. It bought local bank stock at \$100 that is now worth \$150. It could realize five or six thousand dollars on its investment in forty-eight hours and it is gradually accumulating a fund that will enable it to do bigger things in the future. All this has been due to taking care of the small sums. The members want ultimately to establish their own grain elevators.

Here are good farmers using local opportunities to work out local problems and to advance the interest not only of their own vocation but of the material, intellectual and social welfare of their communities.

When I asked Mr. Greasy, the master of the state grange, where in Pennsylvania I might find the place that best combined the benefits of cooperative effort he told me to visit Centre Hall. The advice may be passed on to others. They will find nothing sensational, but they will reach the conviction that these people of Centre Hall are getting something real out of life and that in seeking the general good each is helping himself even more than he is helping others. In short, cooperation seems to be good morality and good education as well as good business.

Writes of Conditions in Chicago.

Mrs. J. W. Grenoble, of Chicago, Illinois, has a word to say about politics and present conditions in the Windy City. Mrs. Grenoble's husband is engaged in the hardware business. The letter follows:

Enclosed find one dollar for the Reporter another year. We are always glad to get it as it brings us lots of news from our old home. We haven't had much nice weather so far this spring. Every thing is high in price with us, and one strike follows another. At present the printers are striking; no papers at all. We are anxiously looking forward when the administration will change, and we will have better times. I hope you eastern people will do your part to bring this change about. Times are dull in Chicago and we don't expect much this summer.

A local county newspaper should promote good sanitary conditions, clean back yards, small factories, public libraries, fewer church buildings, and larger congregations; good roads and decent sidewalks; and invariably should indorse the moral side of every question. Local progress, with the moral phase divorced, is not worthy the name. Progress, to be of lasting benefit must have moral support. No enterprise, no business can survive whose fabric is not interwoven with standards. Success or failure, in the promotion of progressive ideas, and enterprises, are largely dependent upon the righteousness of the proposition.

Again, remember the Maize and Malone.

Not Discouraged.

Mrs. Rebecca Floray, of Centre Hall, sent to the Reporter office a clipping taken from a Reporter of the date of May 10, 1883. The item printed below is referred to, and it was written by the late Christian Dale, of Lemont.

ED. REPORTER:—I would just say to the farmers, do not be discouraged about the lateness of the spring. We have a promise that there will be seed-time and harvest while time shall last. Well do I remember that in 1834, the latter part of March we had very fine weather, and also fine in April. I began planting corn on 22 of April, and then May set in cold and on 13th I was planting potatoes when it was so cold that I quit. The ground froze, and on May 19 there were snow storms and the ground was covered with snow. My corn had sprouted and was under the crust ready to come up. After the 19th it got warm, and in a few days my corn came up, and I never had a finer field of corn. There was no fruit that year—apples all frozen. The great trouble this season is this, farmers are plowing too wet; ground is not in order; it will be very injurious to the land. Fruit is all right yet, even the early cherries.

C. DALE, JR.

No Special Council Meeting.

No special session of the Centre Hall borough council was held on Saturday evening, and for good reasons. It had been planned to finally act on an ordinance granting a free and perpetual, and in action, an exclusive franchise to a corporation to furnish electric light and power.

Only a few of the council men are in favor of the proposition, and not a half-dozen citizens support their opinions. The advice obtained from an attorney, so it is stated by the secretary, was to the effect that to guard the interest of the citizens it would be necessary to incorporate in the ordinance such conditions that would not be accepted by the corporation seeking the franchise. Whether or not a few of the councilmen have given up the idea of granting the corporation anything it asks remains to be seen.

LOCALS

There is not quite so much gumshoeing being done in Centre Hall this week as last.

Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Mueser, of Zion, were in Centre Hall last week. They formerly lived near Centre Hall.

Mary Helen is the name given the little daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Bartholomew, in Altoona. Like all "first babies" it is the greatest baby on earth.

We ought not to wait for hay next year, and if the weather extremes follow, as they usually do, there will be ample sunshine to cure the luxuriant grass and make it into hay.

The commencement exercises of the Claremont College, at Hickory, North Carolina, were held beginning of this week. This is the institution with which Rev. John H. Keller is connected, and is advancing rapidly each year.

Dr. and Mrs. P. H. Dale and little son, of State College, were in Centre Hall on Sunday, having been called here on account of the illness of his mother and J. D. Murray. They were traveling in a 45-horse power Overland roadster.

The Snow Shoe Times, published at Moshannon, by Clarence Lucas, is in its third volume, and has been added to the Reporter's exchange list. The times is newsy and well edited, and is deserving of the support of the business men in its field.

Seven hundred and fifty acres of land, timbered heavily with oak, and located near Martha, this county, was sold by Bud Thompson to D. O. Downing, of Martha, who with a crew of fifteen men, will next week begin cutting the timber from the tract.

Henry Rapp returned from the Bellefonte hospital on Saturday very much improved and is now at the home of George E. Heckman, where he has made his home for almost nine years. Mr. Rapp went to the hospital on account of a swelling on his hand, which required special treatment. He feels certain that after suffering for eight weeks he will soon be able to go to work again, now that the sore is healing.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Ruth A. Botton, of Lemont, and Rev. Robert Rush Reed, of DuBois. Miss Botton, who is a graduate of Bucknell University, and later instructor of music at the same institution, has been in charge of music at State College for the past year. Mr. Reed is a graduate of Princeton, has studied abroad and is at present chaplain at State College. The wedding will take place some time during the summer, after which their home will be made at State College.

DEATHS.

Mrs. Catherine Cori, widow of the late Benjamin Cori, died at her home at White Hall on Tuesday morning of last week after a long illness with heart trouble. Her maiden name was Miss Catherine Roush and she was born at Hartleton on January 10th, 1853, hence was past 59 years of age. Her parents came to Centre county when she was a young girl and in 1881 she was united in marriage to David Young, of Boalsburg. They had one son, George, who survives. After the death of her first husband she married Benjamin Cori in 1885, who died quite suddenly in 1893 while on a hunting trip in the Allegheny mountains.

One daughter, Miss Mary Cori, survives as the result of her second marriage. She also leaves three step-children, Henry Cori, at home; Mrs. Philip Grenoble, of Pine Hall, and Mrs. Zeigler, of DuBois. She also leaves one brother and three sisters, namely: William H. Roush, of Pine Grove Mills; Mrs. Hannah Martin and Mrs. Avollus Yoders, of Grand City, Mo., and Mrs. Isabelle Roder, of Elmira, N. Y. Rev. S. C. Stover, pastor of the Reformed church, Boalsburg, had charge of the funeral which was held Friday morning burial in the Pine Hall cemetery.

Mrs. Anna Funk, wife of Oliver Funk, died on Wednesday morning of last week at her home at Spring Mills of paralysis, with which she had been afflicted for some time. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Musser of Spring Mills, and was born in Penna. Valley, being thirty-five years and twenty-two days old.

She is survived by her husband and two young children, Nevin and May Ruth. She also leaves her parents and a number of brothers and sisters.

Rev. Jones conducted the funeral services Saturday forenoon, burial in Georges Valley cemetery.

Mrs. Harriet M. Stover died at her home at Versailles, Missouri, aged eighty-one years. She and her husband, the late Major George H. Stover, went west from lower Penna. Valley in 1866.

Deaths of Centre Countians.

John Houtz, in Benner township, aged eighty-two years.

Mrs. Nora Reynolds, wife of John Reynolds in South Phillipsburg.

Philip Haines, in Boggs township, aged seventy-one years. He was a veteran in the civil war.

Israel Condo, of Marion township, at the home of his son, Ira Condo, at Scotia. Burial at Jacksonville.

Dallis Chronister, in upper Bald Eagle Valley, aged fifty-seven years. A wife and eight children survive. He was a brother of former Sheriff Chronister.

Mrs. Rose Kreps, wife of Harry V. Kreps, in Altoona, aged thirty years. Surviving her are her husband and one daughter, Florence; also two sisters and one brother, namely: Norman and Kytha McClellan, of Lemont, and Allan McClellan, of Bellefonte.

Pomona Grange.

The second quarterly meeting of the Centre County Pomona Grange will be held at Port Matilda, Thursday, 23rd inst. There will be two sessions—forenoon and afternoon. The attendance is anticipated to be quite large.

Those from the south side of the county will go by rail from Bellefonte, arrangements having been made to obtain a fare of eighty cents for the round trip, provided there are fifteen or more.

The Reporter feels it is doing its duty in exposing the weak points in the proposed borough ordinance giving a free perpetual franchise to a foreign corporation, yet it does appreciate the many words of encouragement given him by citizens who have at heart the welfare of the present and future generations. It has always been and will continue to be the policy of this paper to criticize any and all movements that can not be clearly shown to be of benefit to the people as a whole, no matter whether friends or foes favor such measures.

There never was a time when people appreciated the real merits of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy more than now. This is shown by the increase in sales and voluntary testimonials from persons who have been cured by it. If you or your children are troubled with a cough or cold give it a trial and become acquainted with its good qualities. For sale by all dealers.

Progress Grange will hold a festival on the evening of Memorial day, as has been their custom for many years.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

When we get electric light! The borough schools closed an eight months term on Wednesday.

Mittlerling, the drover, shipped a car load of milch cows to the eastern market, the latter part of last week.

Dr. C. M. Parish purchased the dwelling house owned by Mrs. J. C. Meyer, on Curtin street, Bellefonte, and formerly occupied by her.

The Centre Hall cemetery is being cleaned up for Memorial day. John Geary is now sexton, and he is pushing the moving machine daily.

A. J. Hazel and Byron Hazel, both merchants at Madisonburg, have contracted for Bell telephones, the same to be installed in their places of business.

Mrs. Ezra F. Smith, of Freeport, Illinois, who came east a few weeks ago to be with her brother, M. L. Rishel, during the latter days of his life, has again returned to her home in Illinois.

The Bellefonte steam laundry will soon collect and deliver its work by the use of a motor truck. Of course, when he feels like doing so, the Hon. John Noll will use the truck for pleasure.

Messrs. W. Frank Bradford, William H. Meyer and Lyman L. Smith, all members of Centre Hall borough council, went to Bellefonte on Saturday to consult an attorney concerning the electric light and power ordinance now before that body.

Bellefonte is about to discard the arc lights because they are antiquated, yet the Centre Hall borough council came within an ace of presenting a corporation a perpetual franchise, and a contract for arc lamps at \$60, for five hundred candle power.

George H. Emerick is having his house repainted, the color being white. F. E. Arney is doing the work. Mr. Emerick purchased the Peter Durt property several years ago, and since has remodeled the house, and greatly improved it both on the exterior and interior.

S. L. Condo, the Spring Mills carriage builder, last week delivered two rubber tire ball-bearing top buggies, one to John Rishel, at Axe Mann, and the other to Boyd Cori, near the same place. The vehicles were exceptionally fine ones, and indicate the class of work Mr. Condo deals in.

May, like April, has been excessively wet. Farmers were able to work but two days—Friday and Saturday—last week. Sunday was partly fair, but by six o'clock rain began falling, and continued through the greater part of the night, the precipitation being eighty-one hundredths of an inch.

Surveyor William M. Grove, of Spring Mills, surveyed and staked off about thirty building lots on Allison street, immediately east of the residence of W. Frank Bradford, near Centre Hall station, for C. D. Bartholomew. Mr. Grove has had large experience in surveying, and during the past few years did much work for the state.

Seventeen head of fat cattle and a bunch of hogs were picked up through Potter and adjoining townships by John E. Rishel and turned over to A. M. Regal, a Salona dealer. The cattle were driven through Centre Hall on Monday morning. The price for cattle ranged from five to six and one-half cents, and for hogs, six and one-half cents was paid.

The main building of the Centre Brick and Clay company's plant at Orriston, a mile above the Hayes Run Fire Brick company's plant, comprising the engine room, the drying room and the grinding department, was destroyed by fire Friday night, and the remaining portion of the plant, comprising the office, boiler room, and storage sheds were saved from destruction by the hardest kind of work on the part of a bucket brigade consisting of probably two hundred men, many of whom hurried to the scene from the Hayes Run plant.

In its special column the Millburg Telegraph printed this item: A very pleasing social event among the younger set was the party given by Miss Catherine Ocker and her brother, John, at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Ocker, on Romig Avenue. After the little friends had all assembled the fun of the evening commenced, which included games, songs and music. The little hostess, Miss Catherine, being a talented musician, presided at the piano, in fact she is a wonder, considering her age, of thirteen years. She handles the most difficult music with ease and grace, and in a manner that predicts a bright future for her in the musical world. Her renditions were greatly appreciated by her guests.