

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF LEONARD RHONE, ESQ., GRAND MASTER.

DELIVERED AT THE NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE, HELD AT WILLIAMSPORT, PA., DEC. 13, 14, 15 and 16, 1881.

Brethren and Sisters—Members of Pennsylvania State Grange, P. of H.

In greeting you to-day I extend to each of you a hearty welcome to this ninth annual session of our Grange. Encouraged by your mere presence I am also cheered by the evidence thus given of the vitality of the Granges you represent, and by the conviction that I shall have your hearty co-operation in devising plans and means to perpetuate and extend our beloved Order. We come from all sections of the State, and from circumstances which in many of their features differ widely from each other; but unfortunately, in one sad particular we as farmers have had one experience, and share a common lot. The past year has been to most of us a time of disappointment and sore trial. The unexampled heat of the Summer following the extremely cold Winter has made our efforts vain, and the products in almost every branch of our calling are far below that which has been regarded as a reasonable return. To those who feel that they have faithfully done their duty with the means committed to their hands there remains the compensating privilege of every true Patron to still place his trust in God and nurture hope. He who now sends apparent disaster is the same who has given us every good and perfect gift, and who makes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him. Recognizing the Supreme Being, as all who enter our Order do, we may feel assured that as He has given us a seedtime He will send us a harvest, and that to each one will come finally that measure of prosperity which will best fit us to fulfill our mission.

OUR ORDER.

It should be with no ordinary feeling of satisfaction that we recall the foundation of the great society known as the Patrons of Husbandry, and contemplate the work which already it has achieved. Established for the benefit of the agricultural class, and looking chiefly to their intellectual and social improvement, it has in the few years which number its existence wrought wonders in these particulars, and been serviceable in every point in which it has affected them. Starting in its beneficent career from that city which bears the honored name of one of the most successful farmers America has ever known it has spread through all the States, and numbers its adherents by the hundreds of thousands. None have entered its gates and obeyed its precepts who have not been blessed in return; and even those without, whose callings render them ineligible to membership, have been benefited by their nearness to an Order which makes every member a better farmer, a wiser citizen and a happier man.

IN OUR OWN STATE.

The year which is closing has been one of greater prosperity to the Granges within our State than were several which immediately preceded it. A number of dormant Granges have been revived, some of which have shown great activity and have become very strong; thus proving that they might have maintained their vigor, and gone on in an uninterrupted career of prosperity if those who formerly managed their affairs had done their full duty. Some new Granges have been organized, as will be seen by the report of our Worthy Secretary; and in others many new members are reported. Few persons now seek admission to our Order who are not actively engaged in agricultural pursuits and of those not so engaged who in former years were received many have left, thus producing the unity of sentiment and purpose which is essential to harmony and efficiency. As our purposes and methods have become better known to our fellow citizens, they have been more fully appreciated and highly approved; and now there are but few persons who do not acknowledge the necessity for our organization, and the goodness of its work.

FINANCES.

A year ago we were favored in hearing from my honored predecessor the announcement that the great debt which had burdened us was provided for, and that upon the payment of the further sum then due to our worthy secretary we would meet all our financial obligations. This has now been accomplished; and in our organized capacity we are in that condition of freedom from debt in which our principles teach all our members to abide. I trust that while we maintain that activity and seek the improvement which necessarily involves the expenditure of money, we will carefully avoid the incurring of indebtedness, which experience has shown us to be detrimental to an association as to an individual.

The energy and carefulness exhibited by our Executive Committee in arranging with various business houses for the purchase of goods by our members are worthy of much commendation. The arrangements which they effected have resulted in the saving of thousands of dollars to our people and have given lessons in purchasing, and of the advantage of buying and selling for cash which can hardly be over estimated. It is to be regretted that so many of our number do not fully avail themselves of these arrangements, and give their patronage to the houses which show a willingness to favor our Order. By withholding their trade they not only suffer a pecuniary loss themselves, but show disrespect to their official representatives, and prevent that gain which would come to the Order at large from greatly increased business transactions.

THE LECTURE FIELD.

The importance of disseminating information concerning the Order, and instructing our members in their duties, becomes more clear with each year's experience. In many localities we are as yet but little known, and in others much ignorance mingled with prejudice,

exists. The Worthy Master of the National Grange recently remarked that much diversity of working has crept into the Grangers, which is seriously injuring the unity and efficiency of the body. These evils can be remedied in no way so certainly and cheaply as by the addresses and personal instruction of a lecturer. If it is possible, we should keep our Lecturer constantly engaged in these seasons in which the attention of the people be secured. In our present want of funds, and the absence of a system of visiting, he has been unable to do much for dormant or weak Granges, where his help is most needed; and while he has traveled extensively and labored diligently it has been almost entirely among those who were able to meet the necessary expense and who therefore needed him least. I advise that the State Grange consider this important subject, and attempt such improvement as in its judgment will employ all our present ability, and secure the best results that are now attainable. The excellent tri-State picnic held this summer under the auspices of our Order did much toward enlightening our citizens concerning us. The exhibition of the products of agriculture and other industries, the vast display of machinery and the series of addresses and discussions there presented did much to remove misapprehension, and to set our organization more favorably and fairly before the public. We should strive that by similar, even though much smaller, gatherings in our different neighborhoods, and by public meetings of our Granges, and by diligently using the local talents, we may have, the darkness and opposition be made to give place to light and friendly co-operation.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

In accordance with our principles we who are engaged in the Grange movement desire an increased knowledge of the science and art of agriculture for not only ourselves, but also for our children and for the other youth of our land who will soon take our places. This body has always spoken in unmistakable terms on this subject; and has wished that our young people might have the advantages of well arranged and properly conducted institutions in which agricultural instruction could be obtained. Unfortunately in our State there are none making such claims to which we can point with pride. Neither in the instruction it imparts to its students nor in the information which it sends abroad from itself or its experimental farms, does our State College meet the purpose of its founders, or enlist the support of our farmers? It seems that if the College and its farms did not exist at all our agriculturists would not be worse off. It is being made more and more to serve those who are preparing to enter the professions; and like nearly all our institutions of learning is making the education it affords too costly for the industrial classes. Industrial schools should be separated from those whose chief work is to give classical instruction; and the lands which are connected with them should be made to serve the students both by way of instruction and self-support. Daily manual labor should be required, for two or three hours, so as the better to illustrate and impress the instruction of the recitation and lecture rooms.

Needful legislation should be secured to make the experimental farms now held by the State College the sites of Agricultural Schools, with commodious buildings and a reasonable number of instructors. Into these schools, as members of their Freshman classes, our boys and girls, who have completed the studies of our common schools, should be admitted without further educational requirement. We believe that to the support of these schools the General Assembly could justly transfer one-third of the income of the fund derived from the Congressional Land Grant. The State Board of Agriculture should have a measure of control of such schools, and by means of farms and laboratories should annually conduct experiments for the benefit of the students and the agricultural community. If additional funds should be found needful for the efficient working of such institutions they surely could be reasonably asked of a legislative body which does not hesitate to appropriate many thousands of dollars annually for a military organization which is almost worthless.

RELATION TO OTHER AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Every Patron should consider it a duty to co-operate with every association in the State which is endeavoring by proper means to promote agriculture, and to secure for it from the government the recognition and assistance which are due to it. The State Board of Agriculture and the Board of Trustees of the State College are two bodies created by the State for the purpose of benefiting the great industry in which we are engaged. Ample powers, and sufficient funds from the public treasury have been given to them; and it is reasonable to ask that they shall perform the work given them, and prove their right to live by the quantity and quality of their fruits. Unfortunately in both cases the method laid down for the perpetuation of the boards is defective. The county agricultural societies, by whose action the members of the boards are elected, are, almost without exception, controlled by men who are not farmers; and as a consequence the boards are largely composed of persons who have neither ability nor inclination to perform the duties of their positions. Neither organization is doing its full work, and in each there appears to be a tendency to depart more widely from the good purposes for which they were established. Still we tamely submit to have these great helps to our calling perverted from their intention, and even used to injure those whom they were designed to benefit! Until we can have the laws pertaining to them so amended as to prevent their misuse, let us as farmers vigilantly employ the existing means to rid them of all improper members, and to hold them to the performance of the work for which they are constituted.

CO-OPERATION.

A most valuable feature of our Order is that of co-operation. By it great achievements have been accomplished, and large sums of money have been

saved for our members. But like many other powerful agencies it is capable of perversion, and thereby may be used to even destroy that which it was introduced to uphold. In some cases it has been permitted to absorb the attention and consume the time of the Grange. In others it has finally passed into the hands of a few members who have grown selfish and devoured their brethren for the sake of gain. In all these instances it has been detrimental; paralyzing the Grange, dividing the members and, in not a few instances, leading to disorganization. In using this arm of our Order we cannot do better than to follow the plain suggestion and methods laid down in the Digest. The advice there given is based upon wide experience, and will not mislead us. Especially should it be insisted upon that all who are members and officers of co-operative agencies shall be members in good standing in some Grange when they assume such relations, and shall forfeit them when they lose such standing.

CORPORATIONS AND THE GRANGE.

Very early in our history it became evident that a chief hindrance to our reasonable prosperity arose from the acts of great corporations. Notwithstanding their exactions, and many other unjust proceedings, we freely admit that corporations may be very useful, and that farmers have derived many benefits from their exercise of their proper functions. But no one can close his eyes to the usurpations, the invasions of individual rights, and the violations of wholesome laws which many corporations have been guilty of. The creature has assumed the place of creator, and the humble suppliant for permission to live now arrogantly appoints to death those who gave him life. In the great task of rebuking this presumption, and restraining this flood of evil the Grange must take a prominent part. Beside the duty we owe to our fellow-citizens the instinct of self-preservation impels us to resist the encroachments of corporations. By persistent appeals to every power in our government, by the exposure and denunciation of every illegal act, and by the wise and fearless use of the ballot we must crush this monster before he crushes us.

NEEDED LEGISLATION.

The right of petition is a most valuable one, and should neither be surrendered nor neglected. The duty of directing public opinion, and using proper influence to secure needed legislation is one which belongs to us all; and must be performed under disagreeable as well as agreeable circumstances. Therefore we should continue to demand the legislation which is required to bring about the reformation of abuses, particularly those which injure our own class. It is true that too many who sit in legislative halls are indifferent to our wants, and inclined to disregard our appeals; but if we ask nothing but that which is right, and patiently and perseveringly use the means provided by the constitution we shall succeed at last.

UNITY OF ACTION.

In the accomplishing of such objects as have been alluded to, and in the extension of our Order and the performance of the duties which are peculiarly our own, it is essential that we maintain a unity which is as complete as possible. Unless we all act together, and act with all the force which we combined possess, we will do no good, and will only deserve to die. I do not thus speak because of the existence of divisions and difference, among us, for, fortunately, we are remarkably free from these, but to recall to your minds the fact that our Order has a mission, a mission great and noble, and that to fulfill it every Grange and every Patron must employ all the strength, zeal and persistence which they possess. See, brethren and sisters, what has already been done! Not a score of years has yet been numbered by our Order, and we have been hindered by inexperience and opposed by many opponents. Notwithstanding all difficulties we have done much good for ourselves, and achieved results which have been blessings to many others. Let past successes spur us on to greater endeavors, and the present calls of duty excite our utmost efforts; and we shall have the rewards of those who neither live nor labor in vain.

The Car's Enemies.

ARREST OF EIGHT Nihilists—SMALL BOMBS CONCEALED IN GRANGES.

St. Petersburg, December 19.—On Wednesday last the police made a descent on a house in the Makovoi street, behind General Ignatieff's residence, and arrested eight persons, who offered vigorous resistance. The police seized a large quantity of small bombs, some of which were skillfully concealed in oranges.

Among the papers seized was a letter, recently arrived from London, blaming the nihilists for their inactivity and calling upon them to act without delay. The letter is attributed to Prince Kropotkin. This affair seems to have relation to that which provoked the arrest of several other persons some days ago. These persons had ordered two officers' uniforms, with crosses of the order of St. George. The crosses would have given them access to the palace of Gatchina on the 9th instant, the fete day of the saint.

On the proposition of M. Pobedonostzeff, president of the Sacred Synod, the private and secret council, is about to be re-established. This species of court of inquisition was created in the time of the Emperor Paul, and search is now being made among the archives for the elements to serve for its re-institution.

LOXNOX, December 19.—A telegram from St. Petersburg states that 200 persons have been arrested in the Peshki Quarter.

Cure for Small-Pox.

"I am willing to risk my reputation as a public man," wrote Edward Hines, of the Liverpool Mercury, "if the worst case of small-pox cannot be cured in three days simply by the use of cream of tartar dissolved in one pint of hot water, drunk at intervals when cold. It is a certain, never-failing remedy. It has cured thousands, never leaves a mark, never causes blindness and avoids tedious lingering."

Uriah Moyer Convicted in the First Degree.

MIDDLEBURG, Snyder county, Pa., December 19.—The jury in the case of Uriah Moyer, who was tried in this place last week for complicity in the murder of the old Kintzler couple on December 8, 1877, came into court late on Friday night, after being out six hours and a half, with a verdict of murder in the first degree. Reasons for a new trial were filed. The verdict gives general satisfaction as there was no room for doubt as to Moyer's guilt.

A STATESMAN'S HOME.

The Mansion and Farm of Congressman Hewitt near New York.

SIX HUNDRED POUNDS OF BUTTER A WEEK AT 90 CENTS A POUND.

Journal of the American Agricultural Association.

At Ringwood, in the Wyanoekie Valley, is the residence of Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, containing 1,000 acres, about equally divided between bottom lands and mountain pasturage. The narrow valley in which it lies is fertile and beautiful. The mansion occupied by Mr. Hewitt stands on an elevation in the midst of a beautiful park of elms and maples, and is further adorned by fine shrubbery and by a number of acres in a well-kept lawn. Here are also a valuable graperies and hot-house, and a large number of fruit trees and choice plants, the verandas, which are very spacious, being filled with rare plants and flowers. The house itself is built of wood in the architecture of the Elizabethan period, and is recognized as one of the finest country residences in the United States. There are residences in the country built of stone that have cost more money, but none can present a more beautiful architectural picture or be more perfect in its interior arrangement. The main hall resembles that of Warwick Castle, England. It is 28 by 40 feet, finished in hard wood. The walls are ornamented with specimens of nearly every description of arms used in the late war. On the left is a capacious open fire-place, with antique andirons, cushioned settees here and there, unique chairs, tables and other adornments. A staircase of marvelous beauty and elegance leads from the rear of the hall to the upper floors. Opening from the hall, on the right, is an elegant dining room. The music room, billiard room, sitting room, school room and library adjoin. On the left are drawing rooms and Mr. Hewitt's study, filled with a great collection of practical and scientific books. The rooms are furnished with every possible article for use and luxury, and the walls of every room in the house are adorned with pictures, steel plates, water colors, or oil paintings. On the first floor are five rooms, the second nineteen and in the attic eight. The older portion of the house is more than a century old. A hundred yards distant from it is a small brick building, still in a perfect state of preservation, which during the revolution was used by Washington as a blacksmith shop, and is still used for that purpose. The grounds surrounding the house are adorned by several small lakes.

Mr. Hewitt owns some carriage and saddle horses of thoroughbred stock, but his chief pride is in the Jersey and Holstein cattle. Of the former he has twenty-four cows, and of the latter four, one Jersey bull and one Holstein bull. The Holstein cows are very handsome, and were purchased from Judge Fullerton's stock. The dairy is a pretty building of the Swiss chalet style, and is one of the finest in the country. It is supplied with a large stream of running water drawn from a lake above, entering the building on the second floor and descending to the basement, after supplying power for a water wheel which does the work of the churning. The walls are stone, with a cemented floor, tiled sides, and hard wood ceilings, the room measuring 22 by 30 feet. Adjoining is the ice house, by means of which the temperature is kept at the proper point.

The principal production of the farm is butter, of which the most is made in the winter months, when from 575 to 600 pounds of butter are produced each week, and of so excellent a quality that a market has readily been found for it during the past ten years at the rate of ninety cents per pound. The dairy and all its appointments are perfect for the uses for which they were designed, the dairy room being absolutely clean. The cows are kept with the most scrupulous care, being fed with corn and meal in the summer, and in winter with meal and chopped hay steamed. In this dairy the cream is set about twenty-four hours; and, if it sours, the milk and cream are churned together to prevent loss of cream. The churning is done at 58 degrees in the summer and 60 in the winter. The dairy is managed by Mrs. Hewitt, who is a daughter of Mr. Peter Cooper, and who justly takes great pride in her work, particularly as her mother and mother's sister were expert butter makers before her. The practical work is done by an experienced Scotch dairy woman, whose husband, Mr. Jas. Monigan, a thoroughly experienced farmer, has the immediate management of the farm.

Mr. Hewitt, it is appropriate to state, is the largest individual employer of labor in the United States, having four hundred families on his estate at Ringwood, and employing three thousand hands at his different manufacturing, and during the hard times from 1873 to 1879 he never dis-

charged a man on the ground of "no work," although for three years he sunk in his business \$100,000 per annum. He kept them employed, when necessary, by building stone walls and tending them down again. He is therefore esteemed by his employees as a most generous-hearted man. His firm Cooper, Hewitt & Company, own between 20,000 and 22,000 acres of land in the neighborhood.

THE RELATION OF THE CLERGY TO AMUSEMENTS.

New York Sun.

The Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs of the Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn is a clergyman who does not appear to be afraid to gratify a taste for harmless recreation because to do so unconventional, or what might be termed unclerical. "A very interesting affair," according to our esteemed contemporary the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, "took place at the residence of Mr. Franklin Woodruff" on Thursday evening, and among the invited guests present was the Rev. Dr. Storrs.

The event was nothing less than a private match of billiards between Mr. Sexton and Mr. Joseph Dion, the well-known experts in this fascinating game. A regular three-ball game of five hundred points was played in the presence of a distinguished company. Then the players indulged in some fine fancy shots, and consequently everybody indulged in refreshments. The occasion was one of innocent and agreeable enjoyment throughout.

The presence of a prominent minister of religion at such an entertainment not only shows strong good sense on his part, but is indicative, we think of a change in the attitude of the clergy generally toward all amusements not evil in themselves.

A pronounced expression of the changing sentiment in this respect is found in the Bohlen lectures of 1881, delivered at Philadelphia by Bishop Dudley, of Kentucky. This fearless writer advocates a wise discrimination as the great present need of the church. In reference to popular amusements he declares that the clergy are standing on ground that is wholly untenable.

"I believe," he says, "that the indiscriminate condemnation of one whole class of amusements and the indiscriminate approval of another has produced the effect upon the mass of Christian people to destroy the value of all such judgment." He cannot see why clergy and laity may rightfully go hand in hand to the concert hall or reading hall, there to hear the prima donna or tragedian, and yet must be forbidden to attend the opera or theatre. The actor who refused to read Shakespeare before a Young Men's Christian association is pronounced worthy of admiration for his rebuke to Christian inconsistency in telling the young men that it could not be right for them to hear him read while seated in a chair the language they deemed it unlawful to listen to if spoken by the same person dressed in character.

In games the same unreasonable distinctions are shown by Bishop Dudley to exist and cards are tabooed in households where dominoes and backgammon are sources of constant amusement. The contrast of this sort might be carried much farther. And the bishop is right in regarding the enforced separation of the clergy from hours of recreation as a mighty evil. In the bowling alley the Rev. Dr. Storrs is a formidable rival of any member of his congregation. Why should he not be permitted to become equally invincible at the billiard table?

"Well will it be for the church when it shall be fully recognized that what is lawful for people is lawful for priest, and that what the priest may not do because it is sinful, his people too must forego." Every step toward the fuller recognition of the truth is in the direction of true religious progress.

A War Incident.

From Youth's Companion.

The cry of "On to Richmond" awakened no enthusiasm in the hearts of the "Third Ohio" one day when they found themselves en route as prisoners of war for the famous capital. Nor were they enthusiastic when they halted for the night and prepared to sink supperless into dreamland.

The Fifty-fourth Virginia regiment was encamped near by, and some of the men came down to have a look at the "Yanks."

"Had you coffee?" asked one, of a blue coat, stretched disconsolately on the bank.

"Not a sup," answered the other.

"Ain't you had any rations to-night?"

"Only a crumb or two, from the bottoms of our haversacks."

This was told to the boys of the Fifty-fourth, and old Virginia hospitality showed itself at once. The men soon made their appearance with coffee-kettles, cornbread and bacon, the best they had. In a few minutes the coffee was steaming, the bacon cooked, and prisoners and captors sat down together around the camp fire, "like kinsmen true and brothers tried." The hungry grateful Yankees ate with a relish such as no one can appreciate unless he has been in a like situation.

No wonder there was a warm spot in every heart of the Third Ohio ever after for the generous fifty-fourth.

A fresh slide in the magic lantern gives another of these shifting war pictures. In the distance is Mission

Ridge, which has just been stormed. That long line of prisoners passing over the pontoon bridge and up the stony mountain road is the Fifty-fourth Virginia. A soldier on duty at Kelly's Ferry asked indifferently of one of the prisoners, as the regiment passed—"What regiment is this?"

"The Fifty-fourth Virginia," was the reply. Instantly the loungers sprang to their feet and rushed to camp. "The Fifty-fourth Virginia is at the ferry," they shouted, as they ran in and out among the tents of the Third Ohio.

The Ohio boys were quickly in motion. Boxes from home and all reserve stores were speedily ransacked. Coffee and sugar, beef and canned peaches and the best they had of everything were freely brought forth. They remembered gratefully their debt of honor, and nobly they paid it. It was the same old scene over, with the shading reversed. For one night at least both Confederates and Yanks enjoyed again the sweet grace of hospitality that could bring a smile even to the grim visage of war.

Why Ireland Wears the Green.

London Truth.

In your note on the Order of St. Patrick in a recent issue of your paper you suggest that the existing blue ribbon should be changed for a green one, on the ground that such an alteration would be well received by Irishmen. Will you allow me to point out that this suggestion arises from a totally unfounded, though very common, belief that green is the national color of Ireland? The truth however, is that green was never heard of as a national or party color until 1783, when the United Irishmen accepted it for the following reason: The ancient flag of Ireland was a golden harp on a dark blue ground, as now depicted or emblazoned in the Irish quarter, the third, or the Royal standard, and the revolutionary leaders being anxious to unite together all classes of Irishmen, being in that respect the exact converse of the present agitators, and to join the Orangemen to the rest of their fellow countrymen, adopted green as their distinguishing color, which is of course produced by mixing together gold and blue. At the time, therefore, of the institution of the Order of St. Patrick, in 1783, the only and undoubted national color was dark blue, and that would probably have been the color of the ribbon but that it had already been appropriated by the Order of the Garter, which was originally light blue, but had already been altered by the Hanoverian monarchs to its present color to distinguish their knights from those whom the two Pretenders continued to invest with the old light blue ribbon. Hence, by the way, the expression "True blue." Under these circumstances it was originally proposed that the St. Patrick ribbon should be orange, but as this would have savored too much of party, it was ultimately determined that it should be the color of the Garter—light blue.

An extraordinary amount of capital is being invested in sheep and cattle raising in Cuba. Including the horses and mules owned by the planters, it is calculated that the value of the cattle of all sorts in the Trinidad Valley amounts to \$2,000,000. Great care is being bestowed upon the breeding, and the importation of sheep, cows and bulls is increasing largely, no less than 1,000 head having been delivered from England and the United States at Cienfuegos alone in a single week.

The richest person to-day upon the Sandwich Islands is Claus Spreckles of Honolulu. A few years ago he was laughed at when he purchased 10,000 acres of land for ten cents an acre, as the tract was at the foot of an extinct volcano, and covered with a crust on the surface like a flagstone walk. He broke up this crust, mixed the dust with a small quantity of vegetable mould, thoroughly irrigated the soil thus formed, and planted sugar cane. To-day he is a millionaire.

Mr. Ruskin has determined to devote the remainder of his life to making the museum he has founded at Sheffield the most complete institution of the kind in the world. He has lately given to it his unique and almost priceless library, and a portion of the books and plates have already arrived.

Silk culture in Louisiana has of late become a thriving industry, and to-day promises an abundant production. The mulberry trees have escaped injury by frost, and the silk worms are increasing in quality and numbers handsomely.

The Emperor William's recent illness is attributed to the prostatic cause of an over-indulgence in such indigestible delicacies as lobster, of which he is very fond.

WHEN New York's population reaches 3,000,000 it will be nearly all foreign. The death rate there has increased this year from twenty-six to thirty-two in one thousand, and the birth rate has declined five per cent. There have been about 11,500 more deaths than births, so immigration is the only means to keep up population.