

Be Wise You will be Well Dressed for Little Money

If you will come to Muncy Valley to Jacob Wihnton's Clothing Store.

Just received a fine line of men's Clothing, up-to-date styles suitable to wear for Christmas, also just received big line latest styles and up to date goods in all lines of furnishings. If you are in need of a suit of clothes for any one in your family, for boys and for men, you are invited to come and inspect the goods, whether you buy or not. We are determined to give the people good bargains for Christmas. It's only a little, short time from now until Christmas. You better come soon before the crowd comes. These are the prices of Jacob Wihnton's.

\$15.50	Men's Suits for	\$12.50
\$12.50	" "	9.50
9.50	" "	7.50
7.50	" "	4.75
0	for	\$9.50
9.50	" "	7.50
7.50	" "	4.75
6.50	" "	4.00
3.50	" "	2.75
2.75	" "	2.00



Also a big lot of latest styles—all Shoes at reduced prices from until Christmas. Also just received a big lot of Ladies' Coats, all sizes and reduced prices. Just received 35 cases all kinds of rubbers—Lumbermen's Rubbers, the Lambertville rubbers, a big lot of gums and felts at all prices, the largest lot ever brought to Muncy Valley.

Remember the low prices are from now until Christmas. Remember the place is Jacob Wihnton. Wishing every body a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sole agents for **W. L. DOUGLAS SHOES.**

From 3.00 to 3.50. Also received twenty-five cases of boots and shoes for Ladies' Gents and Children from 95c up; all new goods, no trash. All sizes and low prices.

Reliable dealer in Men's Clothing.

Jacob M. Wihnton

MUNCY VALLEY, PA.

EXCURSIONS TO THE WEST



To the Pacific Coast—to California, Oregon, Washington—round trip, long transit and return limits, liberal stop-over privileges.

The rate is practically on the basis of one fare for the round trip. Of course, if you wish to visit both California and Oregon or Washington, the cost is slightly more.

These reduced rates are in effect on certain dates in months of May to October, inclusive. They apply from all Eastern points via Chicago, St. Louis or Memphis gateways. The Rock Island System will take you up in either Chicago or St. Louis, or at hundreds of other Middle West points and carry you to the Coast in through Standard or Tourist Sleepers with unexcelled Dining Car service. The Rock Island also affords a choice of routes: on the "Scenic" route you can stop off in Colorado—see Salt Lake City—visit Yellowstone National Park; on the "Southern" route you can go via El Paso, thru New Mexico, then "up coast" to San Francisco and on to Portland or Seattle if desired.

In short, these Pacific Coast excursions offer an unusually good chance to see our western country in a comprehensive manner.

If you desire to go only as far as Colorado, there are excursion rates in effect to that section and return, all summer long, specially reduced June 30 to July 4, August 12 and 13, and August 30 to September 4. Extension trips to Ogden or Salt Lake and return at low cost also.

From September 15 to October 31, 1901 one-way tourist or "colonist" tickets will be on sale to California and the Pacific Northwest—about half regular fare.

If interested, send name and address on this coupon, designating which booklet wanted and to what point you plan to go. Name payable date of start also, so we can advise definitely with respect to rates, etc.

Send Colorado booklet and rates.

Name _____

Address _____

Leave about _____

Destination _____



Address
JOHN SEBASTIAN,
Pass. Traf. Mgr., Rock Island System,
CHICAGO.

THE GRANGE

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

WHO MAY BECOME MEMBERS

Question of Eligibility Discussed by a State Master.

In a recently issued circular letter to Ohio granges State Master Dertthick says:

The Order is becoming so justly popular, not only because of its social and educational features, but for the systematized opportunity it offers for effective co-operation, that men and women of all occupations are knocking at our gates for admission. Page 106 of the Digest, paragraphs 1 to 6, describes who are eligible. The declaration of purposes says that "many are excluded by the nature of our organization, not because they are professional men or artisans or laborers, but because they have not a sufficient direct interest in tilling the soil or may have some interest in conflict with our purposes." Page 106, paragraph 1, of the Digest declares that "any person engaged in agricultural pursuits and having no interest in conflict with the purposes of the Order and of proper age (fourteen years) is eligible." Paragraph 2 interprets the phrase "interested in agricultural pursuits" to mean "that a person must be engaged in agriculture to a greater extent than in any other business, or, in other words, his leading business must be agriculture." Thus it will be seen that each subordinate grange will, under the law, decide upon the eligibility of its applicants. The ruling has always been that in rural communities teachers, physicians and ministers are eligible, as they have, as a rule, no interest that conflicts with the purposes of the Order and may always be effective in promoting the chief feature of the grange—education. It has always proved unwise to solicit as a member one who is known as "a disturber" in a community, "a person hard to get along with" or one to whom there is considerable objection.

Beyond question, the original intent of the founders of the Order was that only actual farmers, tillers of the soil, should be entitled to membership, but it has come to this—that there are not more than two or three states in the Union where this condition is enforced at all, and we doubt if half the subordinate granges in those states abide by the regulations. Just why the national grange should permit such a condition as to membership to remain in the governing rules of the Order, only to be constantly violated, we do not know, but there it is. It is left to the interpretation of each individual grange, with the result that a good many who are not "engaged in agricultural pursuits" at all are admitted to the Order. Either the word "and" should be changed to "or" in paragraph 1 of the Digest (making it read "or having no interest in conflict," etc.) or else every grange should be made to live up to the present requirements.

FARM LABOR QUESTION.

National and State Granges Should Help Farmers Get Laborers.

One of the most puzzling propositions that confront farmers today, says Hon. George B. Horton, master of the Michigan state grange, is that of obtaining help to carry on the different branches of agricultural operations and housekeeping. Our country, with all its industries and resources, is witnessing a wonderful development, and this provides attractive opportunities for farm bred boys and girls and also for all those who labor for hire. These conditions have drained the country to a distressing condition. It is not a question of wages, but one of where the help can be found. The records show that over 1,000,000 immigrants have come to our shores during the year. This record is unprecedented, yet practically all of this immense army of people have gone to other sources of action than the farms. Inquiry reveals the fact that many of these people are gathered in on arrival by agents of large contracting interests and sent direct to different parts of the country, while the remainder from lack of direction very naturally settle down in the large cities to aggravate an already congested population.

Under these conditions it becomes necessary to look about us for relief. The soil must be tilled to furnish food as sustenance, and, inasmuch as agriculture is the basic industry of our state, it seems highly proper that state aid should be sought. It seems that the time has come when the work of the state labor commissioner should be enlarged, with suitable appropriation provided so that an agency can be established at Castle Garden for the purpose of directing unobjectionable immigrants to the farms of our state. Co-operation between such agency and the farmers' organizations of the state would complete the system. The larger part of immigrants come direct from the farming sections of Europe and no doubt would prefer farm work here if there was a system for distribution established. The plan being in line of relief to a state necessity, it is recommended that our state grange executive committee investigate the matter to ascertain if relief can come from the suggested source and, if necessary, to ask legislation in its behalf.

Grange Fire Insurance in New York.

The amount of fire insurance in grange companies in New York state is increasing by leaps and bounds. At the last report of the central organization, which was on Jan. 1 last, a grand total of \$100,086,496 was in force in twenty-seven companies in this state. The large amounts are carried in Jefferson and Lewis counties—namely, \$12,422,854; St. Lawrence and Franklin nearly \$8,500,000; Chemung and Chautauqua over \$7,000,000. The wonderful success of this insurance is based largely on the fact of economical management of local companies and the care with which risks are taken.

THE GRANGE

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

STATE GRANGE OFFICERS.

Opinion on Their Election by Worthy Master Horton of Michigan.

The editor of this department recently submitted a question as to certain suggested changes in the methods of electing state grange officials to Worthy Master Horton, and his reply follows. The questions referred to the proposed choice of state grange officials by Pomona granges, which were to submit a list of candidates to the state grange for the consideration and action of the state grange delegates. The other question referred to the making of nominations on the floor of the grange the same as at political conventions. Mr. Horton states very clearly his reasons for the present system of voting. He says:

The constitution of our Order defines who are eligible to vote in the state grange, and the provisions covering this important matter are in harmony with the basic plan of the grange structure. The election of officers being one of the chief functions of the state grange, constitutional provisions for voting would very naturally include and govern the matter of such elections. To change the unit of authority in the matter of electing officers in state granges from the state grange itself to the members at large or to the medium representation in Pomona granges would require a revision of the constitution and quite a radical change in the whole organic plan as conceived and promulgated by the founders. While on general principles I favor the democratic plan of people's rule, it does not seem plain that in this fraternal body of ours fraternal brotherhood and good will would be better served than now, while on the other hand much contention and strife might be engendered. Such strife and contention would be all right in a political organization and conventions, but it was foremost in the minds of the founders of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry to bind the tillers of the soil together in fraternity, and all members agree that this sacred cord should not be broken. It has always been the governing thought to eliminate all political tactics and methods of advantage getting from grange elections. The question is very important in that so much of the original grange plan of structure is involved.

Regarding nominations and supporting speeches, I fear that if it were permitted state grange sessions would have to be greatly extended. As above stated, it has been the rule to eliminate all semblance of political caucus and convention methods from grange meetings and procedure. As it is now done every member has a right and a fair chance to have his or her name presented, and all members have the right to a secret ballot thereon. Under present methods granges may hold an election, and no member will have his rights and privileges abridged or slighted. So far as nominations are concerned, I am in favor of the present method.

GEORGE B. HORTON.

GRANGE HALLS.

Their Advantages to Be Discussed at December Meetings.

What are the advantages derived by a grange from the ownership of a grange hall?

The advantages derived are very similar to the advantages derived by a person who owns rather than rents his home. Doubtless there are instances where a leased hall for use of the grange would be less expensive than owning a hall, when interest on the money invested, repairs, insurance and care are reckoned, but even this does not often occur. When it does, it is no argument that should have weight against a grange owning a hall. A religious society would not expect to be permanently successful that held its services in leased halls. A town or school district does not hire a hall in which to hold school. The government is erecting elegant buildings in all the large cities for the transaction of its business, although at many times the annual expense that a leased hall would cost. The fundamental idea in all these matters is one of permanency and that an association or society of any kind is more likely to be permanent if it is able to meet within its own walls. In addition to this, there is a sentimental idea in regard to a grange owning its hall that does not appear in all the other instances cited. When owned it seems more like a home to the organization. More interest will be taken in beautifying and adorning it, and this will increase the interest in the grange itself. It will have that semblance of comfort and will instill a feeling of co-operation and contentment among the members of the grange that can hardly be secured in any other way. Contentment and strife are less likely to occur, and the grange room will begin to have an attraction for members second only to that of their own homes. They will find themselves looking forward to the time of the next meeting not so much on account of the exercises that are to be held as on account of the feeling that the meeting will be in some sense a home gathering of members of the grange household, and no such intense feeling could be developed if meetings were held in a leased or public hall. In short, the owning of a hall by a grange adds permanency to the organization and promotes fraternity in an eminent degree.—National Grange Bulletin.

Ohio Reading Courses.

The Ohio state grange reading course, which has been tried for a year in that state, has met with the most excellent success. Fifty-eight classes were organized in twenty-two counties. Four hundred and seventy-three books were purchased at a cost of about \$430. These reading classes are held in the granges in some instances, and in others classes meet for recitation several times during each week and report results at each grange meeting. Mrs. Mary E. Lee, who has the work in charge, says that it has passed the experimental stage and become a fixed reality.

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