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For Prothonotary
ALBERT F. HEISS, of Dushore.
For Sheriff
JUDSON BROWN, of Shunk.

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

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION.
Report of the Committee of the New
York State Grange.

We believe that the grange should be to a greater extent than heretofore a school for the progressive education of its members, a continuation of the means and opportunities of the public schools. To this end we recommend that courses of study be arranged in such subjects as history and the natural sciences; that occasional lectures be given by persons of ability and note who may be available for the purpose, and that examinations be held on the subjects prescribed for study. We suggest that in the regular programmes of the lecturer there be an occasional review of a newly issued book. In certain favored localities it might be feasible to provide instruction in elocution, expression and general public speaking. The lecturer's hour would thus partake of character of drill and instruction in addition to the feature of entertainment.

The grange might furthermore contribute to the enlightenment of the community outside the gates by maintaining a simple course of public lectures and concerts, extending through the autumn and winter months, the fee for admittance not to exceed a nickel or a dime. In localities contiguous to colleges and seminaries such lecture courses might be supplied from the teaching facilities at trifling expense, even when including demonstrations with scientific apparatus.

Nearly all our rural communities are without organizations devoted to the improvement of musical talent. Singing schools which in their day were to some extent crude and unsatisfactory nevertheless exerted an important influence on at least a part of the people who participated in them. Might not the grange become the instrument in many cases for attuning the people to the appreciation and practice of good singing? The girls and boys who have been favored with competent instruction in the colleges and conservatories of music would often be glad for an opportunity through the grange singing class to repay some part of the debt they owe to the community that has nurtured them.

In addition to the recommendations already made with reference to the teaching and study of agriculture, the grange could well undertake some practical work, like the maintenance of competitive gardening among the children of the grange or of the public schools of the town or district, including an autumn exhibition of the fruits of the little gardens. The outlay for such an undertaking need not exceed the cost of a single oyster supper.

The Work in Massachusetts.

The lecture hour work in the granges of Massachusetts for the first nine months of 1906 meant something like this: That 1,058 debates and discussions were held, in which 5,745 members participated; that 960 members read essays or papers on various subjects and that after the reading these papers were discussed by 2,400 persons; that 5,190 persons gave vocal selections; that 3,927 persons gave instrumental selections; that 5,323 persons gave readings; that 1,118 speakers presented a great variety of subjects, often followed by lively discussions; that in dramatic features 3,798 persons contributed some part; that 7,509 members participated in some other feature that has added interest to the lecture hour, while perhaps the most astounding total of all is the recitation from these quarterly reports that in these same nine months the lecture hour programmes in the granges of the state were listened to by a total audience of more than 178,000 persons, which does not include the still further attendance at the various state field meetings of the year, all of which gives us an idea of what a tremendous influence must be exacted by the lecture hour work of the granges, likewise the responsibility resting upon those who plan and conduct this educational work of the Order.

Equally Divided.
Men and women must be pretty equally divided in New Hampshire. They surely are in grange membership. On Oct. 1, 1906, the end of the grange fiscal year, there were 15,583 men and 14,416 women, and the net gain during the year was 220 men and 218 women.

Iowa was once the strongest grange state in the Union. That was in the early days of the Order. It has grievously fallen from grace. It hadn't granges enough to give it representation at the national grange last year. What's the matter with the Iowa farmers?

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

RITUALISTIC WORK.

Time Devoted to its Proper Rendering
Is Time Well Spent.

To one who has studied the ritual of our Order it almost seems a privilege to have the beautiful lessons of life and farm work murdered as they are at times, says a writer in the Michigan Farmer. No expression whatever is put into the rendering of the lectures. Notwithstanding one of our main teachings is, "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

Officers should not only commit their parts to memory, but should study the expression so they may render them in a manner that will bring out in an impressive way the lessons they are designed to teach. Let our initiates enter the grange for the first time to find everything in perfect order, officers and members performing their parts in an earnest, faithful manner, as good laborers on our grange farm, and we are assured of members who will take hold of the work in the same spirit. If, on the other hand, the new member enters to find the hall in confusion, whispered conversations going on here and there, officers mumbling over something which he, they or nobody else understands, in the same way will his grange career be carried on.

And another thing, the chief lesson we all have to learn in life is that of discipline. Slight the work or the laws which govern our Order and this lesson is thrown away. Impress upon our younger members that there is a right and a wrong way to do things, and you are making better men and better women, for they will be at all times ready to work together as one whole for the good of all.

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