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WHAT THE GRANGE CAN DO.
 A Valuable Discussion of the Question
 by Hon. George T. Powell.
 (Special Correspondence.)

In very much of the public discussions of grange meetings speakers dwell upon and recount over and over what the grange has done. While we may take pride in the past history of the organization, to dwell so continually upon it does not always interest members, either old or young. Interest centers more in the present than in the past. It is the problems of the day, the work of the present, that are of greater importance to farmers and grange members, and in proportion as these are taken up, considered and effort made to solve them the organization grows in strength, numbers and influence.



HON. G. T. POWELL will the organization grow in strength, numbers and influence.

At the close of the civil war the agriculture of our country became most seriously depressed. Most farmers were heavily in debt, their farms mortgaged to an extent that made life discouraging; they had to pay high rates of interest with transportation charges on their products so high in cost as to leave little profit after marketing.

The grange was organized to meet these conditions, and through the principles and methods of co-operation it undertook, and with a large degree of success, to improve the depressing conditions in farming and to awaken in farmers a higher appreciation of their work and of their influence in the community in which they lived, as also upon important questions of public policy.

The grange needs to do more of this kind of work. Wherever a grange exists or a new grange is organized it should take first of all the problems that affect the highest welfare of that community. What are those most prominent? We should say the condition of the public school is one first in importance. What is the school doing for the farm life of the neighborhood? Are the children being taught anything about the soil? Are they getting any instruction in the plant life with which they have to deal? Are they gaining any conception of the possibilities that are before them in intelligent co-operation and in the cultivation of the important plants that are grown about their farm homes and upon which the prosperity and success of farm life are entirely dependent? Is the school in the rural community in which a grange exists teaching the children anything about the insect life that is destroying the farm crops to a degree that year after year seriously reduces the income of the farm or any thing of the blights and diseases of plants that still further reduce the income and add to inability to meet debts to make improvements and to bring to the home the comforts that add to the pleasure of living? Is there any information imparted to the children on the animal life of the school district, in the woods, in the water or on the farm? Is the schoolhouse and its surroundings pleasant and inviting to the children or is it barren and repellant to the best impulses of their nature? Are there few children in the school and little public interest in the education that is being given them, and if so is there any relation between the total absence of all of this benefit and all inspiring teaching and the diminishing numbers of children in rural schools? And, further, is there any relation between the absence of this kind of school instruction and the desire of the young people to get away from the farm and into our villages and cities, to the final neglect of many a farm home and its sale at a large sacrifice in value?

Is there not here a work of most vital importance that the grange has not done and one which it may yet do with large possible results in the upbuilding of farm values and of more active interest in farm life? What may and should the grange do for the community in which it exists in other directions that affect its welfare? Do the members look after the local government? Do they see that efficient and trusted men are administering the expenditures of the town property? Are the highways, of so much importance to farmers, made as good as they should be for the money that is collected for that purpose? Why do so many farmers and highway commissioners allow year after year weeds to grow along the highway, to scatter their seeds over the farms of the entire neighborhood to contend with their grass and grain crops the occupancy of the soil that yields such discouragingly small profits? Why is an important law in relation to the cutting of weeds

NATIONAL GRANGE NOTES.

Matters of General Interest to Members of the Order From Maine to California.
 New York stands at the front among grange states. State Master F. N. Godfrey reports the membership at about 75,000. There are 659 subordinate granges, thirty-eight having been added the past year. The Patrons' fire insurance associations are strong factors in a financial sense. They represent nearly \$100,000,000 of risks. There are 172 grange halls owned in the state, the total value being reported at \$343,076. Much has been done by the state grange in legislation benefiting rural conditions.

State Lecturer Thompson is one of Maine's enthusiastic grangers. He says there are over 400 granges in the state, and over 300 of them own their own grange halls, which range in value from \$2,000 to \$6,000 or more. A grange of 200 members is almost certain to have its own hall, and this gives a permanence to the grange movement that is unquestionable. The grange membership has increased from 20,000 to 54,000 in twelve years. The largest grange in the state and perhaps in the United States is Houlton grange, with 900 members. It has a grange store, which did a business of \$100,000 last year, and there are half a dozen more younger stores in the state.

National Treasurer Mrs. Eva S. McDowell of Rome, N. Y., reports the financial condition of the national grange as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Balance Oct. 1, 1905.....	\$20,856.30
From various sources.....	42,212.50
	\$63,108.80

PAYMENTS.

On orders.....	\$62,711.88
Balance Oct. 1, 1907.....	10,397.03
	\$73,108.91

The total resources of the national grange, including the above balance and money invested in bonds, savings bank deposits, etc., is \$102,921.44.

State Master George W. F. Gaunt of New Jersey says: "The past year has been the banner year in grange work in the Garden State. Sixteen new subordinate granges have been organized and two Pomona's, making 118 subordinate and fourteen Pomona granges. Nearly 3,000 new members have been added to our membership, making a grand total of 15,000. Our Grange Fire Insurance company has been steadily growing, giving safe protection to our patrons. We have nearly \$18,000,000 worth of property insured. For a number of years subordinate and Pomona granges have been co-operating in the purchase of farm supplies at a great saving. This has been, however, of a local character. The Grange Commercial Exchange has been recently incorporated with a capital stock of \$125,000, which it is expected will be very helpful to the members of the grange."

G. W. Peirce, state master of the Vermont grange, reports thirty new subordinates and one Pomona organized the past year, adding 2,600 members. Questions were freely discussed, and education was the watchword. Agriculture and nature studies were being introduced into the common schools. The grange stood for better roads, better methods and better everything. He will not be satisfied until there are as many granges in Vermont as there are towns.

C. D. Richardson, state master in Massachusetts, says a great growth is going on with enduring results. The problem of child education was engaging the attention of Patrons in Massachusetts. Growth of membership was of little consequence unless every one had some definite object. The grange is winning its way to the front.

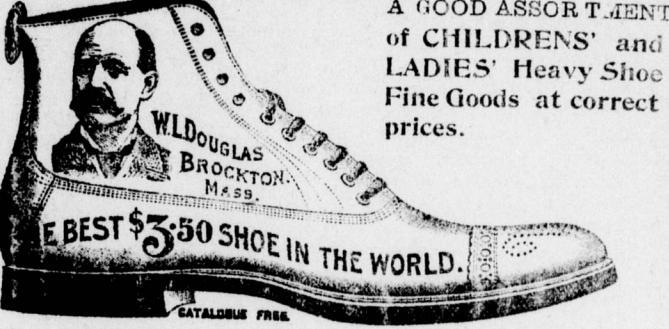
The exemplification of the ritualistic work was never better than this year. The first degree was exemplified by New Britain (Conn.) grange officers, the second by a Cheshire (Conn.) team, the third by a ladies' degree team from Keene, N. H.; the fourth by a ladies' degree team from North Brookfield, Mass. The fifth degree was beautifully presented by a Central Pomona degree team of Connecticut and the sixth by the officers of the Connecticut state grange. This work, particularly in the lower degrees, cannot fail to be an inspiration to all who witnessed it, and through them the various subordinate granges here represented will be incited to improvement in this very important phase of grange work.

Governor Woodruff of Connecticut gave an informal reception to the national grange and visiting delegates just at the close of one morning's session. In the receiving line were Governor and Mrs. Woodruff, ex-Governor and Mrs. C. J. Bell of Vermont and ex-Governor and Mrs. N. J. Bachelder of New Hampshire. Several hundred visiting Patrons took occasion to pay their respects to the chief executive on this occasion. Governor Woodruff is a recent member of the grange.

Potato Growing Contest.
 A novel grange contest took place at North Augusta, Me., this fall in potato raising between the brothers and the sisters. Each one had been previously required to plant five hills of potatoes, care for them and dig them. The losing side was to furnish the supper. On Oct. 5 each one carried the potatoes raised to the grange, where they were weighed. The brothers won by the small margin of five and one-half pounds. The largest crop raised was twenty-two pounds by Everett Wither. J. W. DARROW.

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