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# The Kansas Farmer.

J. K. HUDSON, Editor & Proprietor, Topeka, Kan.

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"OLD CENTRE," "COUNTRY LAD," "HOOSIER GIRL," W. P. POPE, ALFRED GRAY, PROF. SNOW, PROF. KEDZIE, PROF. RUDGE, and host of other valuable contributors, who will assist in giving the farmers of Kansas a paper not equalled in the country for originality and merit.  
A special and interesting department of the paper will be the short letters from farmers and breeders, fruit-growers and others interested in the various branches of agriculture. The live discussions upon the topics of the day, embracing full and complete information upon every phase of the farmers' movement, will also be a prominent feature of the paper. Specimen copies will be sent free to any address.

## PRIZE ESSAYS.

Written expressly for the KANSAS FARMER.

### BROOM CORN, ITS CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT.

BY C. C. G., WAKARUSA KANSAS.

Broom Corn is one of the special crops, like tobacco and hemp, raised extensively in certain localities, as in the Mohawk, Miami and Connecticut valleys. It requires a good, warm rich soil, but grows on any good corn land. The land upon which the farmer proposes to plant Broom Corn, should be as free as possible from weeds, particularly grassy weeds, and should be ploughed early, say about the latter part of April, and allowed to remain undisturbed until the weed seeds begin to germinate, when it may be given a good harrowing to destroy the young weeds, and pulverize the soil, then, after the weather becomes settled, and the ground warm, so that seeds will germinate quickly, from the 15, of May to 1st of June, according to the season and soil, give the ground another stirring, using the cultivator, and follow with the harrow, brush, or roller, as circumstances may seem to dictate, this will put the ground in a fine tilt, and clean it of such weeds as are near the surface, and apt to trouble the young broom corn, which, like sorghum, is a very tender plant when young, and near which it should not be grown.

### PLANTING.

Now take a small shovel plow and lay off the rows about 3 feet apart.  
The seed should be prepared for planting by soaking in water for about 24 hours, taking it out of the water an hour or so before dropping, and let it drain in a coarse sack, like a gunny or burlap.  
Now let a careful person take a quart or so of the prepared seed, and follow the shovel-plow, dropping the seed in the fresh stirred earth, drilling it at about five or six seeds to the foot in good strong land, if poor land less than half that quantity will answer. With a little practice the dropper can keep up with the plow; at any rate, do not lay off the rows faster than they can be dropped. Have ready a broad thin stone about 12 to 15 inches broad, and weighing 15 to 20 lbs, to be used to cover the seed; a hole can be cut in it through which to pass a chain to attach the horse; draw this implement along the row that has been dropped; it will cover the seed about one inch deep; if the ground has been mellowed as indicated above.

The above method of planting, can be pursued, or the broom corn planter, with the drill attachment can be used.  
From ten quarts to a half bushel of seed will be ample for five acres.

### VARIETIES.

We have always found more satisfaction in raising the large variety, Evergreen or Long Green.  
The fineness of the brush can be regulated by the stand. Too thin a stand making very coarse, brittle brush.

The dwarf variety we have always found to be more or less injured by an insect in the boot of the brush, and more difficult to harvest, while the yield was no better.

### CULTIVATION.

The cultivation is similar to Maize, but the plants are much weaker when young, resembling grass and grow very slowly for two or three weeks after they are above the ground, during which time, if the ground is clean and the plants do not need thinning out; pass along the row with a light "A" harrow, with the centre tooth out, it will break the crust of the ground and not disturb the roots of the plants; but if there be weeds in the row, or the plants need thinning out in spots, as is apt to be the case, use the hoe after the harrow, cutting out the thick patches to the proper stand of five or six to the foot on good strong land, and proportionately less on poorer land; the after cultivation can be done with the cultivator or double-shovel-plow, as in corn, and should be worked until the plants are large enough to shade the ground, or as long as can be done without injury.

### HARVESTING AND CURING.

The most particular and important part of the labor commences with harvesting; there are several modes.  
To obtain the highest market price and quickest returns, the planter should be prepared with drying kiln or house, a cylinder seed scraper, and bailing press. As soon as the plant is in bloom, break down the brush by catching the stalk a foot or more below the brush and bend inward toward the operator, who should take two rows and walk backward between the rows. Break the brush so that the butts hang about even with the breast, cut immediately, using long slim, light knives, similar to shoe knives. Haul to the scraper, clean off the seed, and place in the kiln, and keep the fire going day and night. By this process, the brush keeps its green color, which enhances its value. As soon as cured, pass it to the bailing press, and bind with wire, using a stout lath at the corners to prevent cutting. Make the bails of about 200 lbs weight. Sufficient force should be employed to keep all parts moving along at the same time, and the kiln or dry house large enough to hold two or three days cutting. Handled in this way, the crop will be ready to ship to market by the middle of September or sooner, at which time, it usually brings the highest price during the year.  
Another mode is to cut and thresh as above and then place in racks under sheds, to dry in the shade, which takes more or less time, according to the weather.

### TABLING.

The brush may be first tabled, which is done by breaking two rows of stalks across each other diagonally, about 24 feet from the ground, letting the brush project about a foot from the table. The brush is then cut and laid upon the table, to partly dry for two or three days, when it is removed to the shed and placed in racks, in thin layers, to admit free circulation of air, if too much is placed in a body, it will heat and blacken. When cured, clean off the seed and bail for market. Cut when in bloom, and kiln cured, or under sheds, the brush will be green, tough and elastic; but the seed will be of little or no value. Some planters, when they wish to make use of the seed, do not break or table the brush until the seed is in the milk or dough; the seed will then be valuable for feeding poultry or sheep; when ground and mixed with other grain, is good feed for all kinds of stock. The clean seed weighs about 50 lbs to the bushel; but maturity of the seed is an injury to the brush, which is apt to become red, and if the frost catches it in the field it makes it a straw color. In either case the brush will be much lighter or more brittle and inelastic.  
At whatever time it is cut, it should be got under a shed before it is rained on, and cured in the shade. The sun bleaches, the rain and dew blacken.

### YIELD.

A fair crop will yield from 400 to 600 pounds per acre of brush, exceptional crops have yielded 1000 pounds and upwards per acre. If the seed matures, 15 to 50 bushels may be obtained per acre.

### CUTTING.

The operation of cutting, is simple, light and easy work, but there is quite a slight in practice; the operator should catch the brush below the boot, and leaf, with one hand and strike the stalk with a quick upward movement of the knife, which leaves the clean brush in the hand of the operator, otherwise if the upper leaf is caught with the brush, the boot and leaf will have to be removed after cutting, which makes the work slow and tedious; about six to eight inches of the stalk should be left with the brush no more and no less.

### SEED.

The long fine brush free from a centre stalk, should be allowed to mature the seed for next year's planting. After the seed is scraped off the brush, it will be found to be connected by little stems, so that two, three, four or more, seeds are attached, these should be separated before planting, which can be done by placing the seed in a box or barrel, and churning it with a square cornered stick or other implement, put it through the fanning mill, and it is ready for use.

### MARKETING.

When the crop is ready to sell, it is better to take, or send 4 or 5 pounds of the brush, as a sample to two or more dealers, or manufacturers, and get their bids upon it, or in other words, sell by sample; then the planter knows what he is to receive for it before it leaves his place, he thereby avoids being caught in a "corner."  
The bulk of the broom corn crop is handled by a few men, and they control the market in their own interest. The entire crop of the country, a few years ago, was estimated at 5000 or 6000 tons.

### ENEMIES.

Chintz bugs are an enemy to the crop, sometimes destroying whole fields, but it stands drought remarkably well.  
The scraper or thresher most convenient to use, is a cylinder 12 to 15 inches in diameter, two feet long, with an iron shaft, and heavy wrought iron nails, for teeth; if an old fanning mill gearing be attached, it will give about the right velocity for hand power, or pulleys with belt can be used. For a press, use any common hay or hemp press, making a bale about 3 feet 10 inches long, 22 inches broad and 30 inches deep. The broom corn market is subject to greater fluctuations than that of almost any other commodity. The stock will sometimes run low in consequence of prices not being remunerative, when the price is advanced to a profitable point, sometimes to two or three times the cost of production, when the papers, through articles by interested parties, will encourage the planting of broom corn, and as a consequence, an over production, causing a glut in the market as soon as the new crop is harvested which necessitates the sale of the crop at a price very much below the cost of production.  
It is not considered a fat business at \$100 per ton, and less than that price, there is no profit to cover the risk in the business.

### GRASSES.

A writer in the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society*, after many careful observations comes to the conclusion:

1. "That the growth of a grass is always proportionate to the heat of the air, if a sufficiency of moisture be present in the atmosphere."
2. That in the climate of England, the moisture present is nearly sufficient to allow the temperature to have full effect when the temperature exceeds 56; but that if moisture be artificially supplied, as by irrigation or catch water meadows, that then vegetation will proceed in proportion to the heat.
3. That when the temperature of the air is between 36 and 41, the grass will only vegetate with a fifth part of the force that it will when the temperature is 56; thus the land that will support ten sheep in the latter case will only support two in the former; from 41 to 46, it will support 4 sheep; from 46 to 50, it will support 7; and from 50 to 56, it will generally unless assisted by artificial irrigation arrive at its maximum; but if the month of June is very moist, it will increase up to 60 degrees.

Our climate is very different from that of England. The evaporation is ordinarily much more rapid.  
Now, although the mean annual temperature of the two countries is about the same, it being near London, 48.5°, and at Boston, 48.9°. Yet the temperature of the growing months of the two countries presents a marked difference, the mean temperature of every one (at Boston) being much higher. But the climate of England is proverbially moist, notwithstanding that the mean annual rainfall at London is only a little over 25 inches, while the quantity which falls at Boston is over 42 inches. At Charleston, South Carolina, it is over 45 inches, &c.

The amount of sensible moisture is greater in England than here, though the absolute amount existing in our atmosphere must exceed that of the atmosphere of the eastern part of England.  
Our soil is consequently drier, and unless we have frequent rains, vegetation suffers sooner, and the growth of grass is checked for the want of moisture, and this happens more or less every year. — *Grasses for Pasture*, by Charles L. Flint, page 240-241.

It becomes one of the most important questions in our agriculture, how far these principles are applicable to our culture.

Our climate is certainly as much drier than Boston, as the climate of Boston is drier than the climate of London.

With us the summer temperature certainly rises ten degrees higher than at Boston, while the absolute quantity of aqueous vapor in the atmosphere is not so large as at Boston.

The effect upon forage crops is great and damaging.

It said that the English grasses do not grow south of Washington, because they are killed by summer heat. May not timothy and clover and red-top, suffer from similar causes here, and would it not be well to have careful experiments made after the manner above indicated, to determine just what grass in this climate, will make the most pounds of nutritious food to the acre. More weight of vegetable tissue yielded per acre, is no criterion of the value of a grass, or the respective values of two regions for forage and grass. One grass may be nutritious, while another yielding fewer tons, may possess higher fattening powers, than another having a larger yield in tons. It is possible that a ton and a half to the acre here may equal in nutritious value the three tons to the acre on Long Island.

There is a fine field for experiment in this matter of grass, and it would be well, I think if the legislature offered some premiums for the production of the greatest amount of flesh food per acre, with a view to the determination of our best grass, and on what sites it does best.

### PLANTING ALFALFA.

The following, which we clip from one of our exchanges, gives valuable information concerning alfalfa culture.

As we have been familiar with the character qualities and results of alfalfa cultivation in California since 1852; when we first introduced it here, and urged its cultivation, we think we can give reliable instructions. Alfalfa, or chile clover, is especially adapted to a dry, hot climate. No matter how hot the weather may be, so long as the soil has been cultivated deep enough for the roots to go down in search of moisture, alfalfa will flourish.

There is no better feed for cattle and sheep than alfalfa, properly grown and properly cured, and for pasturage, or for hay.

The best soil for alfalfa is a deep alluvial soil, a deep rich, sandy loam, or any good soil, after it has been thoroughly subdued but no soil is fit for alfalfa that is not deep and fine, as the roots will go down twenty feet in search of moisture. Give alfalfa free scope for roots to go down, and no matter if the heat is 120 degrees, alfalfa will do well, and give from eight to sixteen or twenty tons to the acre. This depends on the soil and manner of sowing.

The time and manner of sowing we recommend, is as follows:

As we have said, the land for alfalfa must be deeply and finely plowed, 16, 20 or 24 inches, and then thoroughly worked, remembering that alfalfa, once well established, stands for many years. The time of sowing we recommend is the autumn, and upon the best land as described; we would advise that it be sown with oats or wheat or barley, and twenty-five pounds alfalfa to the acre; it should be sown thick, so that it grows succulent and tender, quicker when cut, and makes better hay; when sown sparse the stalks are coarse and hard, will not cure and the stock will not eat it. When alfalfa is thus sown in the fall, early, with grain, the grain comes up and acts as a protector to the young alfalfa, in case of frost, as the grain blades hang over the alfalfa to shield it from any frost sun or drouth, and as the season warms up in January and February, and the grain grows, the alfalfa grows also, and this covers the soil among the grain roots, and in return protects the earth from the sun, and helps the grain by keeping the surface shielded.

As soon as the grain is harvested, the alfalfa will spring forward, giving two or three crops the first year. One other grain in planting with grain is this: after the grain is off the decaying stubble is rich food for the alfalfa; the roots of the grain as they decay become deep cavities which are quickly filled with the roots of the alfalfa as they go down for moisture; thus in planting the alfalfa this fall early with grain, both species are benefited and a larger crop is secured of each.

When alfalfa pastures are to be used for feed only, for cows or sheep, they should be fenced off into five or ten acre lots, in order to give each lot full recuperative power. This can easily be done by the movable fence, for stock in rich alfalfa pastures won't jump fences or break them.

When alfalfa is used for hay it should be cut when in full bloom, before seeding. If sown as should be, thick, the grass will be tender and will wilt quickly and should be quickly withered, then stacked early, not dried up. Clover should be cured as we cure herbs, to retain their fragrance and goodness; so with alfalfa, it needs but little exposure; it will

dry enough in the stack. The curing of alfalfa hay is one of the most important parts of the whole thing. All the process of selecting of soil, plowing, planting, etc., will all be lost, if at last a good crop of ten or twelve tons per acre is badly harvested and spoiled. — *Colorado Agriculturist*.

### PLANTING OSAGE ORANGE.

Robert Watson of Lee's Summit, Mo., has just published an interesting essay on Osage hedge culture. He gives good practical directions for making a close fence with Osage, and planters will do well to procure a copy of the essay and study it carefully. Below are given a few extracts:

Have the land newly plowed and harrowed 24 in high, dry land, keep it flat, or hollow; if low and wet, ridge it up. Set stakes for the line of the hedge, and plow a good deep furrow; run the plow two or three times through, straight, and break the clods with a spade on the side wanted for plants.

Have the plants ready, keep the small ones to themselves to plant on the best ground. Have a bucket of water or grout, and dip the plants in as wanted. Plant deep, from four to twelve inches apart, and cover directly.

Keep a few good plants on hand, and if they are found not likely to grow, fill up as soon as this is ascertained.

Planting with a spade or dibble is not so good, as the roots do not go down in the proper position to grow. In planting in the fall, cover the row with horse manure, or straw, if there is any danger of freezing out. Spring planting is preferable in the north. In thin, poor lands, manure before and after planting, as manure never hurts hedge plants, and makes them much surer to grow.

### A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE CONDITION OF OUR FARM HORSES.

BY F. DWIGHT COBURN.

The time is at hand, when the severest work of a farmer's team is to begin, and as the team plays so important a part in the raising of a crop, it is well to consider, for a moment, the condition of, and circumstances surrounding the farm horses of our State, seventy five per cent of which have probably been wintered on little else than prairie hay, or straw, and not all of that by any means of first quality.

Many of these came into winter quarters in poor, run-down condition, brought on by over work, scarcity of grain and the torments of flies; of course the hay and straw diet which followed these, was destitute of those elements so necessary to restore their wasted flesh or renew their exhausted energies for the spring campaign; a campaign which our impecunious farmers will desire to make emphatically sharp and decisive. The fate and future of many a settler on the Kansas prairies will depend on his success or failure with this season's crops, and other things being equal, his success or failure here, will depend upon the condition, or fitness for work, in which he keeps his team.

Horses, wintered poorly, are apt to have a coat of very long hair, which will cause them, when not used, to appear in much better order than they really are; something that will be painfully apparent to their owner as soon as plowing begins, from their sweating easily and freely, and the hair lying down closely to their bodies. Probably it will now occur to him, for the first time, that he is working a team of what are scarcely "living skeletons." To use a common expression, "such horses are dead on their feet," and untold hundreds of them will perish in the next three months, from the ignorance and mismanagement of those who can least of all afford to lose them. The intestines of such horses, if cut open, would be found to contain millions of white worms, from the size and appearance of the finest white thread to that of a common darning needle, and this is one of the many cases where the effect is taken for the cause. The horses are not in such a debilitated condition on account of the worms, so much as the worms are one of the results of the debilitated condition, a condition most favorable to their breeding and development in the intestines of horses, hogs and some other animals.

It will require considerable skill and judgment to handle successfully, such horses, and work them at all, and not kill them outright, even by those who are able to procure plenty of grain. If they could be turned out upon



grass, and let alone, a very large proportion would live, and in the course of the season become hearty and strong.

Many farmers, whose horses have been wintered on grain, entertain the erroneous opinion, that if they could get corn to feed, even when they are ready to begin spring work that their teams could stand it to put in and cultivate a crop. Farmers! corn, especially hard, whole corn is not what your horses now need to make them strong and fit for your work! Corn is considered "strong" feed, but it really is so, these poor brutes are not in a condition to properly digest and assimilate such or derive much benefit from it in any way.

The best horsemen learned, long ago, that dry, whole corn is far from being the most appropriate food for well horses much less for those that from poverty and abuse are hardly able to drag themselves about. If corn can be had, and no other grain, why, feed the corn of course, but either have it chopped, (coarsely ground) at the mill, and wet it up and sprinkle with a little salt, twelve hours before using, or if you must feed whole corn have it soaking in water 24 or 36 hours before feeding. Half corn and half oat or rye, chopped together and wet up for some hours, is much better feed than either alone. In some parts of the State, wheat will be cheapest and most available for feed, and it should be treated the same as the corn and other grain, and not be fed whole.

Caution should be used in feeding wheat to mares in foal, as there are many complaints of abortion that seem to be accounted for in no other way.

Above all, use your teams with patience and moderation, and never, without having in mind the fact that with most horses as with many men, this has been the most trying winter of their lives.

If these few hints, out of the many that might be given, shall be the means of any inexperienced farmers saving even a single horse from an untimely death, they would be worth publishing.

One more hint: Try and raise some oats this year for your horses, instead of using so much corn, and be sure to keep a lump of salt in their feed-boxes as a tonic and a preventative of worms, etc.

Pomona, March 15, 1875.

**WHAT NOT TO DO ON THE FARM.**—Mr. P. H. Murphy, in the *Pacific Rural Press*, gives his brother farmers some good hints under the head of "Farmers Don't," several of which we copy:

Don't leave your implements where you last used them, in the middle of the field or the fence corner, after the season is over for their use, to bleach and rust, with the expectation of finding them in good order the next year when needed.

Don't feed your horses with much grain immediately before a hard drive; give a full feed twelve hours before starting, and then give them time to digest the food.

Don't beat horses about the head, or think it a brave act to knock one down; you are only a step above the brute, and should receive the same treatment.

Don't, when on your way to market, or otherwise, drive at a 240 gait and get your horses hot, nor stop at every whisky shed and let them cool off. While you may be engaged in cards, and have your horses hitched to a post, cold and hungry, perhaps somebody may be watching at the gate anxiously for your return home.

Don't get into debt and pay interest, thinking you will surely make it pay. It's doubtful business, and often ruins the brightest hopes. Don't neglect to keep a correct account of your business transactions for the farm and household; what you sell, the price, what you purchase, and from whom, and what you paid for it; the sales and expenses of each branch, such as fowls, hogs, cattle, horses, grain, fruit, etc.; also keep a diary, note down what has been done each day, the weather, where you were, and what you received and paid out, and any other matter of interest. I have kept them for sixteen years, and have them now to look over. They are valuable to me; yours will be to you. Try it for one year.

**HOW FARM GARDENING PAYS.**—Mr. J. M. Smith, a market gardener of Green Bay Wisconsin, furnishes some suggestive statements of experience in high culture. The principal involved is capable of indefinite application:

He has found the rule invariable, not a single exception to it, that the more he has spent in cultivating and manuring, the greater have been the net profits per acre. Last season he cultivated fourteen acres, and began with a more thorough and expensive cultivation than ever before. The result was, that, although there was a "terrible drought," one of the driest seasons ever known in that region, after spending \$3,988, or \$284 per acre, he had a better balance than any previous year.

"After you have learned how to spend money to the best advantage," he remarks, "a larger profit may be made by paying out \$300 per acre than with less. After the second year, if your land does not pay all its expenses, taxes, and ten per cent of \$1,000 per acre, there is something wrong somewhere. I have some acres of land that did not pay expenses for two years, but for a number of years past have not failed to pay ten per cent on at least \$2,000 per acre. I expect my whole garden to do more than that in a short time."

He adds that he is now aiming at one thousand bushels of onions per acre, then a crop of carrots or turnips, or five hundred bushels of early potatoes; or if strawberries, twelve thousand eight hundred quarts, or four hundred bushels per acre. This amount of strawberries is not wholly impossible, as we have known, under our own observation this rate on two thirds of an acre.

**THE BEST BREED OF CATTLE.**—Mr. Geo. H. Williamson, of Gallatin, Tennessee, in Phillips' *Southern Farmer*, has the following sensible remarks on "The Best Breed."

"The truth is, there is no 'best breed' except for special purposes or sections. One family will find the Devon to suit their purposes; another should have the Jersey; while third, could only be suited by Ayrshires. The Shorthorns surpass all others in some sections, while in others they are worthless.

Our correspondents frequently ask us, "What breed of cattle must I choose?" It is impossible for us to advise without a full knowledge of all the circumstances; what traits you principally desire; for what purpose you intend to breed chiefly; what care and feed they will receive, etc. If you live as far north as the latitude of Kentucky, have an abundance of feed and pasture, and have an eye to the beef qualities, the Durhams certainly will answer better than any other breed; if you desire to breed far the greatest quantity of milk, the Ayrshires are the best for any section of country; if you want chiefly the real "gilt-edged" table butter, and are willing to undertake a little extra care and expense to secure it, then choose the Jerseys; if you want a cow for general family purposes and the one which can be kept at least expense, select Devons, especially if for the South.

## Letters from the Farm.

### OUR PENNSYLVANIA LETTER.

DEAR FARMER:—We have more snow just now than at any time during the winter, and have had seventy-five days sleighing; sometimes pretty thin, but always sleighing. The ground is frozen very deep because at no time has the snow been over a few inches, and the weather has been very cold all the time. Of course we cannot now have early spring, but hope for very fair crops of wheat and hay, as the young growth of both have been slightly covered all the time, and no freezing and thawing alternately.

The reports of failure of corn and oats in the north-west, have stimulated the price of both, but wheat is very low and has been since last harvest. The average market is \$1.30 for wheat; 85 cents for corn, and 65 cents for oats. The prices of corn and wheat are so near together that I look for a change in one or the other, or both, as they do not generally hold so. Money seems to be cheap in money centers, and there is strong probability that wheat will advance, after April settlements are arranged.

I perceive that you have had another wrangle with the cursed land sharks, in the matter of Bill No. 356, for the charter of a cheese farm.

Down with the *misnomer*, and call right names! I suggest the following: "A Bill to enable Mr. A., B. or C., to extract blood from the unfortunate, and distill from it the iron or gold for the benefit of millionaires!" In this section we are comparatively free from the damaging and damning effects of land monopoly, (but our system is the same as yours, and the sharks are gradually enslaving the needy and unwary, so that many honest and industrious men who once called their place of residence "home," can do so no more, and one who never lived in a country of thousands of acres, with thousands of acres of non-resident land to boot, cannot have much appreciation of the toil and slavery requisite to counteract the disadvantage of the diabolical practice. But to one who has lived in the midst of the worse than heathenish allowance, the mere reading of a Bill that proposes to increase the tyrants power ought to redouble his watchfulness and energy. I had hoped that with the downfall of chattel slavery at the south, the era of a white man's right to the means of self support would be ushered in, and be legally, at least, protected against brains and money; but I am almost driven to despair. The present ambition of the gifted monopolists of the northern States bids fair to overwhelm and devour the moderate men of our time as completely as did the slave oligarchy of the south destroy and trample the blackman. Let us try for a season to overcome their power and seeming purpose by close organization and unceasing vigilance. But it really does appear that there is to be no stop, short of open and determined war between capital and labor. Eighteen centuries of preaching, praying, and professing, ought to have satisfied christians at least, that the right to live implies the right to a home. But alas, it has not. God grant you health and strength to continue the conflict! And may we one and all realize the necessity for stronger organizations and harder work.

Faithfully Yours,

E. K. S.

Sycamore Springs, Bucks Co., Pa., March 10th, 1875.

### LETTER FROM MISSOURI.

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER:—There are many here in Missouri, and indeed all over the land, where your paper is read, who rejoice that you comprehend the wants of the farmer in an agricultural paper.

We do not need to have the matter of planting, sowing, the raising of stock, &c., constantly and alone, sounded in our ears through the columns of a farmer's paper.

Whatever vitally affects the farmer, should find a place in the farmer's paper.

The farmer is more deeply and directly interested in legislation than any other citizen. No amount of success in producing good crops, will avail the farmer under a bad government or unwise legislation.

Where laws are enacted in the interest of rings and monopolies, it is always in antagonism to the farmers interest, and he may raise corn in such abundance that it is burned for fuel, and find himself in not much better condition than after a grasshopper raid.

A raid of law makers is more to be dreaded than locusts. No people can be permanently happy under bad laws.

Your fearless denunciation of bad laws and defence of the interests of the industrial classes, will surely be appreciated by every

honest and intelligent farmer and mechanic in the land.

Every agricultural paper should be political as well as partisan, but looking to the policy and probable effect of all laws; fearlessly advocate the right, and denounce the wrong. We are glad to see that you are disposed to observe this rule—go on.

Jackson county, Missouri, March 16th, 1875.

For the Kansas Farmer.

PLow SHALLOW AND SOW EARLY.

Save Your Teams—Raise a Good Crop.

In your issue of February 17th, I see an article by S. P. Repine, advising the farmers of your State, to plow deep for spring grain and to plant lightly of corn.

I think he errs in his advice to plow land deep in the spring, for small grain. My experience is that shallow plowing, well done and thoroughly harrowed, is the best chance, where land has to be plowed in the spring. I should rather take good clean corn ground of last year for spring wheat and oats and sow and cultivate thoroughly with the corn plow and then harrow over than any spring plowing; by all means sow as early as the ground is fit to cultivate, and sow some flax to get some pocket money early; you do not have to bind it, you can do nearly all work on a flax crop without calling on high priced help, in harvest times.

And again, if farmers will follow the advice of J. W. Estees, in same issue, in regard to corn, they will find it the best crop they can tie to, it is not bad for a man to eat, and is good for horses, hogs, cattle and sheep, the best, all things considered. Raise corn and turn it into pork, beef and wool, and save freight in marketing corn. Grass, and stock to eat it, is the farmers ticket in the far west. Let every farmer hedge his land and make his calculations to farm in this way as soon as possible, and Kansas has nothing to fear. Come brothers speak up!

PATRON.

EDITOR FARMER:—Grain and hay are scarce in this section, but horses and cattle although poor, are doing well under the circumstances, and are likely to come through the winter in better condition than last spring. I am wintering about 450 sheep, have fed no grain until the last month, when they have had a light feed of wheat or sheep oats, once a day; they have been herded on the prairie whenever the weather would permit.

Winter wheat has been considerably injured by the cold freezing weather without snow, that sown among cornstalks is thought to be safe yet, also early sown wheat on stubble ground, unless much bad weather ensues. Most of the older peach trees are killed by drought, grasshoppers and cold weather combined. Young trees from two to six years, have received but little injury, and where a smoke was kept up as in my orchard for two weeks, during the grasshopper visitation, the older trees are not much injured.

The fruit buds on all the budded peach trees that I have examined are dead, but some seedlings have escaped. Early Richmond cherries are also killed this year, though the trees are uninjured. As yet I see no reason why we may not have a fair crop of apples; my own trees, which retained most of their foliage, are apparently unharmed, while many other trees that I have examined are badly scarred on the south west side by the sun scald, yet why some trees are thus affected, while others equally exposed have escaped is a problem not yet solved to the satisfaction of all, though I have not yet found a tree thus scalded, where the foliage remained. Where are the wise men of the seed, let them tell us if it is the variety, the soil, location, aspect, exposure, or all combined.

H. A. S.

Pavilion, March 1st.

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER:—I would be pleased to see the farmers use more space in discussing the best modes of culture and general topics of practical farming. Many of us are newcomers in Kansas, some of us from the far east where we follow a mode of farming that is very different from what would be best here, and we need the benefit of the experience of those that have practical knowledge of farming here. I will venture a few questions.

1. What is best to do with fall wheat where it is badly winter killed, perhaps to half a stand?

2. What variety of corn is best to plant, and how far apart.

P. SMITH.

Barton county, Kansas.

For the Kansas Farmer.

The symptoms of the disease prevailing among Chickens of South Bend Kansas as given by T. C. Polk, are those of pip. Remove the nip from the tongue, which is nothing more than a horny like substance formed on the end of the tongue; remove it with a pen-knife, and feed with soft feed. This disease can be cured if taken in time, but if neglected or as some farmers do, wait to see if they will get well, the result will be death. Such fowls, as soon as they mope, should be removed from the flock and treated, if the owner wishes them to live.

Geo. H. HUGHES.

Topeka, Kansas, Feb. 19th 1875.

Seed.—Enquiries as to where to buy seed reach us every mail. We say to our friends we are not interested in any seed firm, and we thoroughly believe that every firm now advertising in the FARMER is responsible and worthy of patronage.

## Educational.

EDITED BY PROF. J. B. HOLBROOK.

Our correspondent, of Richland Farm, puts three questions to us. 1. "Does he (we) expect the people to remain satisfied with the present management of our educational affairs?" 2. "Are they not superintended almost to death?" 3. "Do not middlemen eat up too much of the educational funds and suffer too many children to grow up in ignorance?" We sincerely hope the people will not remain satisfied. 2. they are not only superintended to death, but the large majority of them are not superintended at all. 3. We are unable to see that county superintendents are middlemen, in the Granger sense of that word. Now, in the words of the correspondent, we will give what we deem the cause of the present condition: "A second-rate teacher, with some skill in the dirty work of a small politician, was elected." Elected by whom? Not by the possessors of Richland Farm, but by the owners of Prairie farms. He is the man who elected the second-rate teacher, and he is responsible for the present condition of the common schools. It is not the part of wisdom for the Prairie farmer to throw the responsibility upon the irresponsible agent whom he selected to do the work. It would be the better way to admit the case, discharge the agents and select a first-rate teacher, who had nothing whatever to do with the nastiness of politics. We venture to say, if in each county of the State, the best teacher had stood last autumn for election against a second-rate teacher, preacher, doctor, or lawyer, there would not now be a half dozen best teachers holding the office. The Prairie farmer would have defeated him. How? By voting for the man who asked for his vote. But teachers have neither time nor inclination to go "horse-back" over the country or stand upon the streets soliciting votes. They have too much self respect to beg for anything, the almighty suffrage not excepted. Nothing is more contemptible, nothing can be more degrading than begging votes, and, if the beggar be a school teacher, he should receive the same scorn meted out to a thieving quack; for such he admits himself to be. The able teacher shows he is able by his work; the quack teacher by telling how able he is. "By their fruits ye shall know them"—if you wish to.

As to the sufficient salaries of officers, the correspondent quotes two very respectable authorities, Christ and Washington. Will he please read, LUKE, x, 7, and the letter of George Washington to Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie, in regard to the pay of himself and other provincial officers engaged in the French and Indian War.

### WATER SUPPLY OF KANSAS.

(CONCLUDED.)

If the supply of a town with water be the object sought, the rule, "The least supply shall be equal to the greatest demand," must be rigidly adhered to, and in the construction of water works for towns and cities, it must be remembered that the present system of extinguishing fires by means of Steam Fire Engines uses a much larger quantity of water than formerly when hand Engines were in vogue, and therefore the allowance for capital if that be the basis of estimating the demand, must be considerably increased above estimates heretofore considered ample; with this view of the case, 50 gallons per head, per diem will not be much, even for moderately sized towns.

If the object be the impounding of water, for purposes of irrigation, the question arises, what quantity of water will be required to irrigate an acre? The answer to this will depend on the configuration of the ground, the nature of the super-soil and subsoil, character of the crops, etc. It will only be possible, in the limits of this article, to give general principles.

The greater the inclination of the ground, the more water will be required; sandy soil will absorb more water than clayey soil; coarse sand or gravelly soil, more than if it was firm; a loose, open, sandy loam, irrigated with water, containing a large quantity of mud or slime, will become in a manner impregnated or filled up in its interstices, and subsequent irrigation will require less water. In one case of fine, sandy soil lying on a clayey subsoil, it was found that for an extent of sixty acres, the mean was three tenths of an inch, in depth, of water per irrigation; for clayey meadows it is found to be between nothing and thirty-six inches, for the whole season. This will also be modified perhaps, to the extent of as much more if the humidity is low and the temperature is high. Last season, after a period of severe drouth, a fall of five inches of rain was absorbed without saturating the clayey loam of the Kansas river bottom.

It will sometimes occur, that with ample gathering grounds, the valley formed by the adjacent elevations is not adapted to the formation of a reservoir; in this case the water may be carried along the slopes of the hillsides in open cuts to where ground suitable for a reservoir can be procured. In the same manner the drainage area may be enlarged by extending the catchment drain outside of the watershed line proper, and thus collecting the surface drainage and the contributors of small streams; by this means circumstances will sometimes enable us to add miles to the catchment area.

PROPORTIONS OF EMBANKMENTS.  
The proportions of the embankment required

to retain water, is one on which designers are not agreed: some few consider that it should be designed with strict reference to its theoretic ability to resist hydrostatic pressure, or the effort of the water to displace it. Regarding the question in its abstract form, it is evident that (in case of failure) any structure designed to sustain the pressure of water, will fall in one of two ways: First, by yielding to the horizontal pressure of the water and overturning. Second, by sliding. As regards the first, the general principle of statics, as applied to the stability of retaining walls, will apply, the weight of the mass of the embankment being however reduced by the percolation of the water.

On the assumption of the yielding by sliding, the embankment is supposed to be a rigid body, resting on a horizontal plane, and with a very small adhesion between the surfaces of embankment and the plane upon which it rests; the amount of the friction due to this adhesion, is the precise point to be considered, and until the coefficient of friction of the different materials used in practice is known, this mode of investigation will be indeterminate, as a matter of fact, the embankments on level ground do not slide: it is true, land slides do sometimes occur, but they differ from our supposed case. They occur, either when the mass rests on an inclined rock, with sufficient water to lubricate the surface of the rock, or are the result of cutting or embanking earth to a higher slope than the material will stand at, the infiltration of water by acting as a lubricant is also the principal agent in this case.

The question then resolves itself into a determination of the slope at which the material forming the embankment will stand. The slopes for the different kinds of material used for such purposes, have been determined by long practice and by success in some cases and failure in others, and the limits based on the experience thus acquired, have been laid down.

Earth, in contact with water, invariably loses a portion of its stability for which reason it is customary to give the inner side, a larger slope than the outside. In the greater number of the best examples, the inside, is either from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 horizontal to 1 vertical, and the outside from 2 to 3 horizontal to 1 vertical, depending on the character of the material inside and the means used to protect the embankment. The impermeability of the earth forming the embankment cannot be relied upon although instances are not unfrequent where embankments have been constructed without any special provision being made to render them light, and which have fulfilled every condition of stability and impermeability. The English practice, is to construct in the centre of the embankment, a wall of well puddled clay; the American practice, is to line the bottom and inner slopes, to, say, two feet above the high water line, with puddle, say, two feet thick, and as a security against the corroding action of the water, and also against the inroads of vermin, to pitch the whole of the inner face of the embankment, with stone carefully laid.

The embankment should be formed by placing the earth in successive layers of, say, one foot in thickness, breaking up the lumps with a harrow, wetting it and consolidating it with a heavy roller, as the tendency of the wind, acting on the surface of the water will be to cause it to rise and overtop the embankment, it is customary to raise it above the level of the highest water, depending on the extent of the reservoir it is made from 3 to 5 feet

(Continued next week.)

## Patrons of Husbandry.

### THE KANSAS FARMER GRANGE PLATFORM.

I. The abolition of all degrees beyond the Fourth.

II. The making of all Fourth degree members eligible to any position in the Grange, from Gate-keeper to Master of the National Grange.

III. The removal of the National Grange Headquarters to St. Louis.

IV. The abolition of fifth degree Granges and substituting therefor the Business Council.

V. The reduction of the dispensation fee to one dollar, and reduction of dues to the simple cost of salaries and office expenses for National and State Grange Headquarters.

VI. The return of all accumulated funds in National Grange Treasury to subordinate Granges.

VII. The thorough organization of the business features of the Grange, by States and counties, as an absolute necessity for the perpetuity of the Order.

VIII. The County Council to constitute the business unit and the concentration of all surplus funds in the hands of the Council, where under the immediate supervision of those who contribute it, it may be applied to practical business enterprises.

The above is the Grange platform of the KANSAS FARMER. Upon the important question involved, we invite free and independent discussion. We distinctly require of correspondents, that they treat, in their communications, with courtesy and consideration, those from whom they may differ in opinion.—EDITOR FARMER.

The following resolution was adopted by the members of Waveland Grange No. 1015, at its last regular meeting, Feb. 19, 1875.

Resolved, That we believe the organization of a county Grange is detrimental to, and contrary to the principles of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

Therefore we resolve to oppose it in whatever way or form it may come up. We believe in unity and equality, and that 4th degree members should be eligible to any position in the Order.

E. W. EVANS, Secretary,

Waveland Grange No. 1015.







### HARDY EARLY ANNUALS.

paupers, and imbeciles. If it is of such great importance that the right to do this by wholesale and retail, be discontinued, we cannot understand why men should be allowed to give away these vile decorations. It is a well known fact that this practice is made use of to entice young men into gambling houses and to lead them into innumerable crimes. W

and all that is good and noble ebb away.  
We If parents were always right themselves.

Highland, Kansas, Feb. 26th 1875.

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**HERSE MAKERS' PROVIDE**  
CORRESPONDENCE INVITED. Send for Price-List  
**G. B. WERKE, Frenchess, N. J.**



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**HEESE FACTORY,**  
**REAMERY AND DAIRY,**  
SUPPLIES AND APPARATUS.  
**HEESE-MAKERS PROVIDED.**  
CORRESPONDENCE INVITED. Send for Price-list.

G. B. WERKS, Syracuse, N. Y.



## LIST OF DONATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Commencing March 15th and ending March 20, 1975, from the Relief Department of Patrons of Husbandry of Kansas.

## RECEIPTS:

March 15,	Cash on hand,	\$ 498.47
"	Rec'd of Judd & Co., N. Y.	11.00
"	Of Hazel Dell Grange No. 1332, Charleston, Ill.	5.00
"	Of Rural Grange, Shelby Co.	4.00
March 17,	Of Prairie Farmer Grange South Grove, Ill.	5.00
March 18,	Of Indiana State Grange, Of Subordinate Granges of Indiana, per M. E. Hudson	500.00
"	Of Executive Committee of N. Y. per M. E. Hudson	118.80
"	Of M. E. Hudson, per his letter of March 16,	1.40
"	Of Liberty Grange, No. 113, Montgomery Co. Ill.	2.00
"	Troy Grange No. 944, of Ashland Co. Ill. for Phillips Co.	42.50
March 19,	Calro Grange No. 888 Henderson Co. Ky.	13.00
"	Of Duck Creek Grange No. 878, Ind.	5.00
March 20,	Of Illinois State Grange,	500.00
Total,		\$2,200.97

## DISBURSEMENTS.

March 15,	Paid on transfer of cars at Atchison.	\$ 2.00
"	Paid for Telegraphing.	.35
"	Paid on transfer of cars 8898 and 894.	2.00
March 16,	Paid freight on two cars meal from National Grange donation.	15.00
"	Paid expressage on 3 bxs for Wabunsee Co.	7.20
"	Paid expressage on 2 bxs for Ottawa Co.	8.20
"	Paid freight on 1 bx mdse for Ottawa Co.	3.15
"	Paid for postage and stationery.	2.35
"	Paid freight on car 5785, for Rockton Grange.	3.80
March 17,	Paid for Telegraphing.	1.00
"	Paid freight on meal to Neosho Co.	32.50
"	Paid cash to M. A. Hazlet, per Jones, (house burned.)	10.00
"	Paid for Telegraphing.	.50
Total,		\$88.85

## RELIEF GOODS RECEIVED SINCE MARCH 15, '75:

March 15,	Car 2326, C. B. & Q. R. R., meal from National Grange.	1 bx sundries for Franklin county.
March 16,	3 bxs mdse for Wabunsee county. Donors unknown.	3 bxs mdse for Ottawa county.
"	1 car, 594, C. B. & Q. R. R., meal from National Grange.	1 sk seed corn for Shawnee county for A. M. Garrison, donors unknown.
March 19,	5 sks seed corn for Shawnee county, donors unknown.	3 bxs mdse for McPherson county, donors unknown.

## RELIEF GOODS DISBURSED.

March 15,	Allen county, 28 sks meal, James Falkner.	Anderson county, 50 sks meal, Jno. Post.
"	Douglas county, 50 sks meal, & W. Goss.	Franklin county, 60 sks meal, J. P. Reed.
"	Johnson county, 50 sks meal, D. D. Marquis.	3 bxs mdse for Wabunsee county from Ohio, A. F. Wade.
"	1 bx sundries, Franklin county, J. P. Reed.	3 bxs for Ottawa Co., D. D. Hoag.
March 16,	Wabunsee county, 8 sks meal, A. F. Wade.	1 bx for Ottawa Co., D. D. Hoag.
March 18,	Brown county, 50 cwt. meal, R. P. Smith.	Jefferson county, 40 cwt. meal, D. B. German.
"	Linn county, 50 sks meal, John Burdus.	Washington county, 50 cwt. meal, Sam'l Moulder.
"	Pottawatomie county, 1 sk meal.	Almon Benton, per Wm. Roark.
"	Shawnee county, 3950 lbs meal J. Armstrong.	1 sk seed corn, Shawnee county J. Armstrong, for A. M. Garrison.
March 19,	5 sks seed corn, Shawnee county J. Armstrong.	3 bxs, McPherson county, C. P. McAlexander.

JNO. G. OTIS,  
Kansas State Agent, P. of H.

## THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE—  
KANSAS STATE GRANGE.

(Proceedings of State Grange concluded.)

Butler,	A. J. Ryan	Mileage and per diem	17.00
Saline,	A. P. Collins	Mileage and per diem	28.50
"	B. Anderson	Mileage and per diem	18.50
Wabunsee,	W. W. Goss	Mileage and per diem	19.00
Ladoc,	E. F. Randall	Mileage and per diem	10.00
Atchison,	F. O. Horton	Mileage and per diem	27.00
Wilson,	Jan. Burns	Mileage and per diem	10.20
Pottawatomie,	J. R. McProud	Mileage and per diem	28.00
Marshall,	E. F. Jones	Mileage and per diem	14.00
Crawford,	E. P. Pomeroy	Mileage and per diem	17.50
Doniphan,	Jno. L. Blair	Mileage and per diem	27.70
Dickinson,	G. A. Rutledge	Mileage and per diem	16.50
Sedgwick,	John Kelly	Mileage and per diem	28.00
Sumner,	E. S. Miller	Mileage and per diem	38.00
Coffey,	J. T. Lawrence	Mileage and per diem	31.90
"	"	Mileage and per diem	118.30

Making entire amount necessary to pay in mileage, and per diem, \$1,440.80.

This report is brought up to date. If the delegates present remain over till tomorrow's session it will add to the entire amount \$148.00, making total amount \$1,588.80.

CHAS. L. WYETH, Chairman.

## FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

Worthy Master in the chair. A preamble and resolution was introduced, read and

afterwards amended so as to read as follows, and unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, Bro. George Y. Johnson has faithfully performed the duties as Secretary of this entire session of the State Grange. Therefore be it

Resolved, That in recognition of the able and prompt manner in which he has fulfilled the duties required of him, and in justice to the Brother we extend as due to him a vote of thanks for his services, and instruct the Executive Committee to fully compensate him for said services.

The committee on Districting the State made report as follows:

## REPORT.

The committee on districting the State beg leave to report as follows:

First District: All that territory east of 96° longitude, being the west line of Osage, Shawnee and Jackson counties, including Nemaha.

Second District: All that territory east of 96° longitude, being the west line of Coffey, Woodson, Wilson and Montgomery counties, and south of Franklin county.

Third District: All that territory west of District No. 2, and south of 38° Latitude.

Fourth District: All that territory west of 1st and 2d districts, and between Latitudes 38° and 39°.

Fifth District: All that territory north of 39° parallel of latitude, and west of the 1st districts; Provided that when a county is divided by any of the above lines that the entire county should be in that district containing the largest extent of territory of soil of the county; all of which is respectfully submitted.

T. B. HUNT, Chm. Com't.

Next proceeded to ballot for Gate-keeper, on the third ballot W. G. Patton received 69 votes, scattering 21; necessary to elect, 46; Bro. W. G. Patton having received the majority, was declared duly elected to the office of Gate-keeper.

Proceeded to ballot for Ceres and upon informal ballot; Sister B. A. Otis received 36 votes, scattering 37; total 73; necessary to elect 37.

By unanimous consent of the Grange, the Secretary was instructed to cast entire vote for sister B. A. Otis for the office of Ceres, which being done, she was declared duly elected.

Then proceeded to ballot for Flora, sister W. L. Patten received 41 votes, scattering 27; necessary to elect 35; Sister W. L. Patten having received a majority of all the votes cast was declared duly elected.

Then proceeded to ballot for the office of Pomona; Sister Bates 33 Rippey 25 Sims 9; scattering 4; total 71; necessary to elect, 36.

By unanimous consent, the Secretary cast the entire vote of the Grange for sister L. Bates, for the office of Pomona, and she was declared elected for the ensuing term.

Then proceeded to ballot for Lady Assistant Steward. Sister A. C. Rippey, received 43 votes, Sims, 23, scattering 1, necessary to elect, 34.

Sister Rippey having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected.

W. P. Popenoe tendered his resignation as Relief agent, and by unanimous vote of the Grange, entire satisfaction was expressed in the manner he has conducted the business, with a request that he still continue as such agent and the subject was referred to the executive committee.

The following was then read and adopted.

Resolved, That this Grange tender a vote of thanks to sister Sims, for her services during this session, as Lady Assistant.

The following were elected as Executive Committee:

A. P. Collins of Saline, A. T. Stewart of Cowley and W. H. Fletcher of Clay, to complete the committee.

By unanimous vote the action of the Executive committee in contracting with the Fort Scott Foundry Company, for farm machinery, was endorsed.

The Executive committee was instructed to appoint an Auditing Committee of three, to investigate the affairs and examine the accounts of the Business agency, a sufficient length of time before the meeting of the State Grange, to present a full statement of its standing to the State Grange.

A resolution of thanks to Bro. J. G. Otis, for his untiring zeal as State Agent, and instructing our subordinate Granges to sustain the State agency as far as they possibly can.

Unanimously adopted.

The business plans suggested by the State Agent, were taken up and considered, and on motion were referred to the Executive Committee for such action as they may deem best.

Then proceeded to install the officers elect.

Adjourned to 8 A. M., Saturday, at Odd Fellows Hall.

## SATURDAYS PROCEEDINGS.

## MORNING SESSION.

Opened in regular order. Minutes read and approved.

Resolution adopted, authorizing the Secretary to borrow for a short time from the Relief fund, on the credit of the Grange, a sum sufficient to pay the balance of expenses of delegates to this meeting.

J. K. Hudson of the KANSAS FARMER and J. T. Stevens of the Kansas Spirit made propositions to print proceedings of the State Grange which on motion were referred to Executive Committee.

The following was read and adopted:

Resolved, That the Master and Secretary of this body be authorized to disburse any funds in their hands to be paid out during this session.

The Worthy Master stated that the Worthy Lecturer of the National Grange proposed to visit, through his invitation and by direction of the Executive Committee of the National Grange, the State of Kansas, and instruct the members of the Order in the work, sometime during the ensuing summer.

On motion, the time of and programme for said work was left to the Worthy Master, Secretary and Executive Committee, who are directed to consult with Bro. Thompson and arrange as they deem best.

The following resolution read and adopted.

Resolved, That in all cases where Masters

or Pastmasters of Subordinate Granges, hold orders given by the Secretary for amounts due them as delegates to previous sessions, that have been paid in full or part by Subordinate Granges, such holders are directed to send such orders to the Treasurer of the State Grange, and that said Treasurer shall return to them the balance due in cash at once. Provided, if there be no funds on hand he shall acknowledge the receipt of the same immediately, and pay full amount as soon as funds are available.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee are hereby instructed to employ Bro. G. Y. Johnson, acting Secretary of this session, to revise the minutes of proceedings, that they may have the same printed as soon as it is possible for him to so revise, and to furnish each Subordinate Grange with two copies of the same.

Unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That when the Executive Committee are satisfied that dues of Subordinate Granges have been sent, but lost in transit, they may remit the same. Provided, that hereafter the State Grange will not be responsible for loss of money in transit, unless in draft or post-office money order. Adopted.

Read and adopted.

Resolved, That when a member orders goods under seal of the Grange, and fails to take and pay for the same, if the goods are as represented, he is guilty of conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Order of Patrons, and such conduct shall be sufficient grounds for preferring charges.

The following song was composed by Sister M. L. Patten, of Chase county, and sung during the session of the State Grange, and by a unanimous vote was ordered to be printed with the proceedings.

WE ARE RISING AS PATRONS

I. We are rising as Patrons with the changes of our time,  
In the farmers' reformer let us all unite,  
As we rose amid the conflict when the battle storm was high,  
To protect ourselves, we're rising like the eagle to the sky.

II. We are rising! we are rising in the Patrons' home,  
In the cause of truth and justice we will win our selves a name,  
And the poor shall be exalted, while monopolies shall fall,  
And the right of equal justice be enjoyed alike by all.

III. We are rising! upward rising and our course is onward still,  
And the prospect that awaits our weary souls with raptures thrill;  
Our watchman shall proclaim it with a shout from treasured towers,  
How the tide of all our nation shall be turned to blend with ours.

IV. Hallelujah! we are rising and no tribute will we pay,  
The oppressor and the idle must seek another way,  
And the banner of our Order with the standard of the free,  
O'er our prairies fair is waving like a watchfire o'er the sea.

Resolutions regarding State appropriations for relief of destitute, read, adopted, directed, signed by Master and Secretary, and sent to President of Senate and Chairman of the House, Kansas Legislature.

After instructing in A. P. W., adjourned, sine die.

GEO. Y. JOHNSON,  
Secretary of Session.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ODD FELLOWS HALL,  
Topeka, Feb. 22d, 1875.

Executive Committee of the Kansas State Grange, P. of H. met, with the following members present, viz:

F. H. Dumbauld, chairman, and Bros. W. P. Popenoe, A. T. Stewart, and W. H. Fletcher.

On motion, it was voted that the State agent be considered, ex officio, the secretary of this committee; and that he take charge of the minutes and records.

At suggestions of Bro. Otis, the Downing plow matter in Morris county, come up for consideration, and on motion, the State agent was authorized to refund the price to Bro. Downing, and order the plow sent back to Wilder & Palmer, and settle with them for the same.

Bill for Hall rent of E. E. Barnum, during session State Grange, was presented, allowed, and ordered paid, amount \$40.00.

Committee then received the following supplemental statement from Bro. Downs in connection with corn bought through the agency, during three months past.

Shipments of Corn.

No. of cars shipped	24
" bushels corn	9077
Total amount received for same	\$6,580.48
" paid	6,580.10

Difference \$54.20

Average cost per bushel .75

" in Iowa per bushel .49

" per bu for freight and charges .24

" profits to agency per bushel .24

The above is the average cost per bushel taking the extreme points of shipment on the different roads. The minimum cost has been 66 cts. for same at Topeka, and the maximum cost 83 cts. at Peabody, on the A. T. & S. F. railroad, and at intermediate cost at Emporia, 72 cts.

Committee then proceeded to take up the State agent's report as referred to them by the State Grange at its late session, and carefully examined his books and vouchers and overlooked all his accounts from the organization of the State agency down to February 15th, 1875, and found the same all correct; and in his report many suggestions of great value to the commercial interest of the order.

FEBRUARY 23.

Bro. Geo. E. Clayton made statements before the committee, relative to granting aids to Brown county. Letters were read by Bro. Popenoe from G. W. Seaman, and from the secretary of the county councils of Brown county; and after a full hearing the following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That Brown county be recognized among the counties that should be aided, and as soon as the Patrons of that county appoint a relief agent, for the whole county and report the same to these headquarters, we will see that Brown county has a proportionate share of all supplies donated and pro rata of free freight as furnished by the State Legislature; and further, that Bro. Popenoe be authorized to pay \$15.00 to Bro. Clayton to meet his expenses at Topeka, and charge the same to Brown county as relief.

On motion it was ordered that all communications

that involve questions of constitutional law, and matters that are to be determined by rulings and decisions of the Master of the State or National Grange, should be referred to the Master for answer; and all questions relating to business, should, properly, come before the Executive Committee. Communication from Bro. Palmer, on the subject of relief was brought up and ordered placed on file among the relief papers of Washington county.

Kansas State Agency Bill, for rent of committee rooms, amounting to \$15.00, presented, allowed, and ordered paid.

Bill of I. B. Schaeffer, for services in Fire Insurance Department of \$11.70, was presented, allowed, and ordered paid out of Fire Insurance funds. Bills in favor of Bros. Skinner, Goodell and Spencer for services at the late session of the State Grange, were presented, allowed and ordered paid, \$8.00 each.

On motion, sister B. A. Otis, bill of \$35.00, was approved, for services performed in connection with the State agents office during past year.

On motion \$159.50 of the account for clerical help and expenses, heretofore charged up to the agency account, were ordered credited to that account and to be charged up to the relief fund.

On motion, it was voted, that the price of a dispensation for a county or district Grange, be fixed at \$5.00, to include necessary documents.

Bro. W. S. Hanna, lecturer of the State Grange, presented the following request:

To the Executive Committee of the Kansas State Grange:

I request the following allowance to be paid quarterly as the annual salary of the lecturer of the Kansas State Grange, three hundred dollars, and five cents for each mile necessarily traveled.

W. S. HANNA,  
Lecturer.

On motion, the request was postponed for six months; and it was voted that upon arrival of Bro. Thompson, lecturer of the National Grange, who is expected in our State the coming season; Bro. Hanna be authorized to travel with him one month, to become perfected in the private unwritten work of the order, and that he receive therefor pay at the rate of \$2.00 per day, and his actual necessary traveling expenses.

On motion of Bro. W. S. Hanna, of \$6.50 for stationery, was presented, allowed and ordered paid.

On motion, the contract heretofore made by Bro. Dumbauld, as chairman of the Executive Committee of Kansas State Grange, P. of H., with Thomas M. Nichols, patentee of Kansas Clipper Gong plow, was approved and fully ratified; royalty fixed at \$2.50 for each plow or complete machine.

FEBRUARY 24.

On motion, the necessary documents to be furnished a district Grange, are limited as follows, to wit: One Dispensation, one Roll Book, one Secretary's Book, one Treasurer's Book and thirteen manuals containing 51 degree work.

On motion, the following form of application for a district Grange was adopted.

Form of Application, Kansas State Grange P. of H.

We the undersigned Masters and Past Masters of Subordinate Granges and our wives who are Matrons and delegates from subordinate Granges duly elected to represent such Granges in a district Grange under the provision of the Constitution of the National and State Granges; all being residents of the district below described, and all having received the 5th degree, do hereby petition the Master of the Kansas State Grange P. of H., for a dispensation to form a district Grange at \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ State of Kansas, to embrace the following described territory, to wit:

And we promise that in case such dispensation is granted, we will in all respects conform to, and abide by the Constitution of the National Grange, and of the Kansas State Grange, and such rules and regulations, as may be made by said State or National Granges from time to time, and herewith forward the sum of \$5.00 to pay for such Dispensation, Manuals, Books, etc., necessary to complete the organization of a district Grange, and request the same to be forwarded to \_\_\_\_\_ the Master elect at \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ State of Kansas.

On motion, the same system was adopted to control in the organization of district Granges as is now adopted in the organization of subordinate Granges, and all officers organizing district Granges, will conform thereto.

On motion, the following form of Dispensation was adopted, for a district Grange, to wit:

## PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

To whom it may concern,

Greeting.

WHEREAS, On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 187\_\_\_\_, an application was granted to certain persons, named therein to organize a district Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, at \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ State of Kansas embracing the following territory, to wit:

Now, know ye, that we, the State Grange of Kansas, P. of H., for the purpose of diffusing the benefits of the order, and of promoting the interest, welfare and happiness of its members do issue this dispensation to \_\_\_\_\_ district Grange, No. \_\_\_\_\_ and hereby recognize it, as a regularly constituted district Grange, under the jurisdiction of the Kansas State Grange, whose seal is herewith attached.

Provided, nevertheless, that the officers and members of the Grange hereby constituted, and their successors, shall at all times comply with the Constitution of the National Grange, and of the State Grange before mentioned, and all the laws, rules, and regulations passed in accordance therewith, and otherwise this dispensation shall be forfeited, and the rights and privileges, hereby conveyed be void and of no effect. Given at the State Secretary's office, at \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 187\_\_\_\_. Witness our signatures, and the seal of the State Grange of Kansas.

\_\_\_\_\_, Master.  
\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary.

FEBRUARY 25.

Proposition from Bro. J. K. Hudson, to print too district Grange dispensations, to be executed in a neat workmanlike manner, workmanship to be equal to that on Subordinate Grange Charters in all respects, on first-class paper, in different colors, one of which shall be bronze, for the sum of \$10.00, was received; which, on motion was adopted and Bro. A. P. Collins authorized to close the contract.

On motion, the following rulings were adopted: All members shall pay quarterly dues, including initiation of the quarter, suspended persons, and all others whose names are on the books at the end of the quarter. No class of members shall be excepted as not liable to quarterly dues.

On motion, the committee proceeded to adopt form for secretaries quarterly reports from Subordinate Granges.

On motion, it was voted that the secretary be furnished with printed postal card receipts to be sent to Subordinate Granges for quarterly dues in place of receipts heretofore used for that purpose.

Committee instructed Bro. Popenoe to look into the matter of Hoyt Grange, with full power to act in the premises.

Ordered, that all deputies who are insurance agents, shall give bonds in the sum of, not less than \$1000.00, to be approved by the members of the Executive Committee of his district, or Master of his district Grange.

On motion, the committee fixed the bond of the secretary of the State Grange, at \$15,000.00, that of the treasurer \$50,000.00.

On motion, it was voted that this committee appoint a treasurer who shall receipt to the treasurer of the State Grange for a contingent fund to meet the necessary expenses, and run the office of this

committee, and the business department of the State Grange, and who should keep a careful and exact account of all funds received and paid out; and make a full detailed quarterly report of the same. The committee then proceeded to ballot for such treasurer, which resulted in the election of Bro. W. P. Popenoe by a unanimous vote; and on motion, the treasurer was required to give bonds in the sum of \$15,000.00.

J. B. McAfee appeared before the committee and presented the importance of having our county and State agencies supplied with suitable accommodations for the storing, exhibiting, and selling wagons and farm implements and other goods. The importance and necessity of such warehouse facilities were unanimously agreed to by the committee; and they recommended the appointment of such persons as county agents as would give their personal attention to our commercial interests, and that they be provided with every possible facility for doing business.

On motion, bill of J. K. Hudson, for printing blanks for former secretary of the State Grange amounting to three dollars was presented, allowed, and ordered paid.

On motion, voted that there be 3000 copies of State Grange reports of 3d annual session printed in pamphlet form and 5000 copies of the constitution of State Grange, and Bros. Johnson and Stewart were appointed a special committee to negotiate for same.



sented, allowed and ordered paid out of the State Grange fund.

Bill of J. K. Hudson for printing, amounting to \$83.00, was presented, allowed and ordered paid out of the State Grange fund.

Bill of J. G. Otis for services as State agent from January 1st, to March 1st, 1875, was presented, allowed and ordered paid out of the State Grange fund.

Bill of J. K. Hudson for printing constitution and proceedings presented, allowed, and ordered drawn from State Grange fund.

Ordered, that Bro. J. G. Otis, our State agent, is by virtue of his office, hereby constituted our relief agent, and is authorized to receive all monies coming to the Executive Committee Kansas State Grange, as relief for the Patrons of our State; from this first day of March, A. D. 1875; and will publish a weekly account of same in KANSAS FARMER.

Ordered, that the officers in the different business departments of the State Granges make out and forward full quarterly report, at the end of each quarter and have them ready for inspection and publication at the regular quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee to be held on the first Tuesday of April, July, October and January in each year. Reports should be sent to J. G. Otis, secretary ex officio of the Executive Committee Kansas State Grange, P. of H., at Topeka, Shawnee county, Kansas.

Committee authorized the State agent to close contract with Bro. G. W. Spencer, at Topeka, for lot on which to erect a warehouse, as per his proposal duly presented.

Proposition to allow Bro. S. H. Downs his expenses to St. Louis, Mo., to negotiate for reduction in railroad freights, was referred to State agent to make such terms with Bro. Downs as seemed just and proper.

State agent was instructed to acknowledge weekly receipts of relief in detail in KANSAS FARMER and send one copy to each donor.

Ordered, that a requisition be made on the treasury of the State Grange for the sum of \$500.00 as contingent fund to be placed in the hands of the treasurer of Executive Committee, for paying current expenses of the business department of the State Grange and of the Executive Committee.

Ordered, that the State agent be authorized to receipt to Bro. M. E. Hudson for the six per cent. on the \$54,000.00 coming from the National Grange, and the chairman of the Executive Committee notify him to that effect.

State agent was instructed to correspond with parties owing for machinery and close the accounts up on the best terms and as speedily as possible, and the committee desire to have it published to all the membership that all commissions accruing to this agency fund go into the agency fund and the State agent is paid a stipulated salary, and has no interest whatever in the commissions, and the membership are urged to build up their own interest by patronizing the agency to the fullest extent possible.

The following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That we consider it our duty in the equal distribution of the \$5,000.00 appropriation for paying freight made by the legislature of the State of Kansas to instruct our agent, J. G. Otis, to use it in the following manner, viz: pay transportation of one car load of seeds or feed to each county in the State needing such assistance.

On motion, adjourned to meet on the first Monday in April.

F. H. DUMBAULD,  
Chairman.

J. G. OTIS,  
Secretary Ex. Officio.

## The Kansas Farmer.

J. K. HUDSON, Editor & Proprietor, Topeka, Kan.

### KANSAS AND HER SUFFERERS.

The country has been distressed at the repeated announcements of the destitution in the western parts of Kansas, caused by the ravages of the grasshoppers last fall. Appeals have been issued by numerous organizations imploring immediate relief for the coming season in the way of seed. The number of destitute needing flour, clothing and fuel, has been variously estimated and by some as high as thirty thousand persons. These people have had no assistance save such as has been voluntarily contributed by the humane and charitable of other states. Clothing, money, and provisions have been forwarded in large quantities from time to time. In the early part of January the legislature of Kansas met, and the subject was brought to its attention, not only by the Governor, but by the members representing the suffering portions of the State. The winter has been an unusually severe one, and after being sixty days in session, the legislature, notwithstanding the incessant appeals of the starving and perishing people, and the confessed want of seed for the coming season, adjourned without taking any action. The bill appropriating the \$100,000 surplus revenue in the treasury was defeated, not because of any question as to the power of the legislature, or any doubt as to the duty of the state thus to provide for her own afflicted citizens, but because of a difference of opinion as to the justice of making the amount thus distributed a charge, in the nature of a debt, on the counties in which the money was to be used to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, warm the freezing, and furnish seed for the crop of 1875. Unable to get a mortgage on the property of those relieved to secure the return of the money thus advanced, the legislature adjourned leaving the destitute to suffer from want, and to go without seed for their crops.

The same legislature was liberal in its appropriations for public buildings, salaries, and the payment of claims, but voted nothing for the suffering people who had been visited by the calamity, and they passed resolutions thanking the benevolent of other states who had sent aid to Kansas, but gave no aid themselves.

This proceeding is most extraordinary, and one which the state will long regret. It will have a serious effect in checking private aid. It will be accepted by the country as susceptible of two interpretations: first that no legislature would have thus acted had they any faith that the destitution existed with the severity represented; and, second, that the legislature sought to throw the whole business of aiding the unfortunate upon the kindness and benevolence of the people of States, cities,

and communities outside of Kansas. Either conclusion must be fatal to the credit of the State.—Chicago Tribune.

The above is about as fair a statement of the facts as we have seen. Humiliating as they are we must acknowledge their truthfulness. In this connection we present the appropriations. They are as follows:

Expenses of the Legislature.	\$ 39,449.00
State Central Relief Com. (for freight)	8,000.00
Executive Com. State Grange (for freight)	5,000.00
State Printing (deficiency for 1874)	11,092.00
State Printing for current year	30,267.80
Insurance Department (deficiency for 1874)	5,964.95
Insurance Department (current expenses)	3,900.00
Academia Normal School	3,312.50
Executive and Judicial Departments (including District Judges)	92,543.50
Miscellaneous Expenses	21,239.54
State Penitentiary (including deficiency \$16,000)	84,543.78
State University (including deficiency)	18,201.30
Prosecutions in unorganized counties	1,492.00
Conveying prisoners to penitentiary	6,559.87
Insane Asylum building (Oswatimie)	50,000.00
Insane Asylum building (Topeka)	25,000.00
Donation to H. E. Vantrees	500.00
Blind Asylum	8,990.00
Agricultural College	18,675.24
Insane Asylum (current expenses)	35,976.00
Per Diem, &c., Regents State Institutions	4,901.30
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	13,864.83
Lawenorth Normal School	6,650.00
Europa Normal School	12,640.00
New vault, &c., in Treasury	3,000.00
Expenses of taking census	1,900.00
Horticultural Society	1,500.00
State Board of Agriculture	11,005.38
Philadelphia Centennial Exposition	5,000.00

Total \$525,468.60  
In the above appropriations of over half a million it will be seen \$11,000 was appropriated for paying freights on relief goods.

And now comes a decision from the Attorney General, saying that the law authorizing townships to vote bonds for relief is unconstitutional. This being so, no bonds can be sold. Kansas stands before the country with her citizens begging alms in every State: thousands of her people without seed or feed to enable them to put in a crop and the legislature stupidly and criminally adjourning without having done one practical thing towards their relief. A dozen constitutional lawyers of the legislature, fail to see the unconstitutionality of the bill, and while the people suffer for relief, and the reckless disregard of the legislature for her own poor is a subject of common gossip and humiliating remark from one end of the county to the other, hours upon hours are frittered away in vulgar jokes upon a Castor Bean Bill.

The Attorney General, in a lengthy opinion upon the Constitutionality of the act approved February 20th, 1875, "entitled 'An act to authorize townships to issue bonds for relief purposes,'" after citing many authorities and decisions to support his opinion of its unconstitutionality says:

"The tax provided for in the act aforesaid is to be levied and collected, not for a public purpose, as it seems to me; and, therefore, my opinion is that said act is invalid. In view of the great calamity which has befallen our State and the general outcry for relief, I decide as above, with extreme reluctance.

If a hundred thousand dollars had been voted whether stolen or not, it would have given Kansas a right to say to other States, we have done what we could to help ourselves. The appropriations exceed a half a million of dollars. Of this large sum, \$35,000 go to pay for a politico-militia fraud in the interest of the personal political ring controlling the affairs of Kansas to day. It will require years to wipe out the disgrace of having shown to the country that we are aristocratic beggars.

### THE NEW TARIFF TAX LAW.

The new steal from the people of the west to enrich the manufacturers and dealers of the east, passed the Senate by a vote of 30 for to 29 against. Senators Harvey and Ingalls are recorded as absent, and not voting. Either of their votes would have prevented the passage of this excessive tariff tax upon the producers of the west.

In the house, Cobb and Lowe voted for the measure, Phillips against it. The western producers in debt, mortgaged and struggling almost hopelessly to meet the interest on their debts, will behold with astonishment, the apathy and negligence of western members who assist by their votes or by their absence to impose upon the paralyzed interests west, this iniquitous burthen.

The following from the Chicago Tribune, the leading Republican paper of the West shows what influences passed the bill:

"The pressure to force the passage of this bill was unprecedented. It proposed a gigantic robbery—an annual dividend of thirty or forty millions of dollars to one class, a cash bonus of 20 cents a gallon to every holder or owner of whiskey; a cash bonus of 4 to 5 per cent on the value of all woolen, cotton, paper, iron and steel, lead, tin, zinc, copper, and other metal goods, and on manufactures of glass, in store in the country. The bill had the support of every whiskey-distiller in the United States, and of all the owners of spirits. It added \$10,000,000 cash to the value of the whiskey on hand and exempted it from taxation. All this class of persons, and they are numerous in every Congressional District, were represented on the floor of both Houses of Congress, urging and pushing this bill. Every manufacturer of carpets and woolen goods of every description, every manufacturer of cotton goods, every manufacturer of glassware and every manufacturer of iron and steel ware was represented on the floor of the Senate, in person, by attorney, by letters, and by dispatches, urging and pushing the passage of the bill. Every merchant and dealer in carpets and in cotton, woolen, paper, glass, iron, steel, and other metal goods, was represented

in Washington by those urging and pushing this bill; and all the sugar refiners and sugar producers in the United States were urging and pressing the passage of the bill; and yet so monstrous and barefaced was the robbery that it passed by a bare majority in both Houses. In the Senate it received the votes of a number of Senators whose official life has now expired, and who, it is to be hoped, will be heard of no more forever. It was supported also by four gentlemen officially representing Florida and Arkansas, and one from Alabama, but between whom and their constituents there is no possible community of interest.

Nor was this all. The River and Harbor bill, with its \$8,000,000 of plunder, intended for distribution among a majority of the Congressional Districts of the country, was held in reserve, and Senators were warned, in decided and emphatic terms, that, unless the Tax bill were passed, the Harbor bill should not be allowed to come to a vote.

The sugar-refiners, in whose interest the people of the country have been unmercifully taxed for fourteen years, were present urging this bill. This class of persons are among the wealthiest and most pampered by protection in the country. This bill proposes to add to the annual tax on sugar, \$30,000,000, of which \$8,000,000 are to be paid to the United States, and the other \$22,000,000 to the sugar refiners. They were represented in both Houses of Congress by their attorneys acting as members.

Every man in the United States who was interested in this gigantic scheme of robbery was represented; but the people, who are to be robbed, had few members to speak a word in their behalf.

### FARMERS SUSTAIN YOUR ORGANIZATION.

If there is one distinguishing trait more strongly developed in American farmers than another, it is their strong, practical common sense. The pursuit of agriculture develops a self reliance and a love of personal independence, that has made all previous attempts to combine the farmers as a class, almost impossible. The lack of co-operation on their part, however, together with the comparative isolation of their lives has given over the management of public affairs almost wholly to professional politicians. The great monied interests of the country, alive to the importance of special legislation to better protect and enhance their profits, have pressed the unorganized interests to the wall. The interests of agriculture unprotected by organization, has been subjected to every species of direct taxation, from township tariff added, until, mortgaged and in debt, the farmers of the country, more especially those of the west, have learned at last the absolute necessity of organization for their own protection. The Grange has been accepted as presenting the best form for organizing, and to-day whatever may have been the mistakes of the National Grange, or the petty failures of the Subordinate Granges here and there over the country at business enterprises, the Grange stands, a robust and healthy organization, of great power and strength, capable of immeasurable good to the farmers of America. Farmers, there is necessity for you to stand firm to your organization. Sustain it, make it stronger, by practically demonstrating to the organized interests of the country that you are able to protect and defend the rights of the producers.

The future usefulness of the Grange is in the hands of the membership. If it would continue its power, and present strength, it must build, not upon ceremony and ritual, but address itself more thoroughly to the organization and development of its business features. The creation of Subordinate Grange libraries, and the discussion of farm topics are important aids to growth.

The enlightened sense of the patrons of the country, are opposed to present non-republican form of its government as well as to the new Fifth degree Grange, creating as it does, a privileged class within the order. Whatever changes for reform are demanded for the best interests of the order, they can no doubt be secured in the future. So far as the organization is itself concerned, it should be sustained by the farmers of the country.

### THE SEED DISTRIBUTION BY GOVERNMENT.

Vick, in his Floral Guide No. 2, for 1875, is again denouncing this abuse upon the American people. He says:—"It hardly agrees with our ideas of the dignity of a great nation, this peddling of seeds, and quibbling with English seed-dealers about the price of cabbage seed and the price they must receive for putting them up in bags 'with a foreign aspect; as little like those used by American seedmen as possible.' We did feel a little ashamed when we read such instructions in the orders sent by our Government to the seed-merchants of London. We would like to have blotted such quackery and humbugging out of the record; but there it stood in black and white, and we merely remarked that England did not contain all the fools in the world. Then it is not fair to be seedmen. There are a good many men engaged in the seed trade, and struggling for a livelihood with the rest of their fellow citizens. But what chance can they have, for Congress appropriates money and appoints a superintendent, and opens a shop and gives away pumpkin and melon and squash and mignonette seed and rye and barley and larkspur seed to politicians and lawyers in all parts of the country. It is also unjust to the whole people. Seedmen are compelled to pay the Government a duty of twenty per cent. on all they import from Europe. Of course, the people who purchase have to pay this duty. This money is taken and sent to Europe to buy seeds to give away to favorites, who have no need of seeds or are so mean as to pay for them. This is justice with a vengeance. Are the people willing to submit to this stupid and dishonest waste of their money any longer?"

One of Vick's Washington friends writes him: "The Department of Agriculture (or the seed part) is kept up for the benefit of politicians and their relatives. No one having a friend at headquarters need purchase a seed or choice shrubbery; but let a common citizen ask for a paper of seeds and he or she is told,

"your district or State has received its allotment." The institution is one of the humbugs of Washington, kept up for the purpose of dispensing patronage.—Rural New Yorker.

We endorse every word of the above. We believe, however, there is a wide field for the Department of Agriculture, and that it has an important work to perform in the interest of the farmers of this country, and that it should be sustained. For this seed department there is not a single good argument to be made in its favor. The useless quart packages of wheat, corn and oats have done political service long enough, and when it is known that the Commissioner of Agriculture lent his influence to secure a return of the franking privilege to enable members of congress to send out seeds to their political pots, it proves to men of ordinary sense that the department is used only as a political machine with an agricultural title. Let the seed department be abolished, and if congressmen wish to compliment friends with packages of seeds, let them buy them and pay the postage on them out of their present fat salaries.

### LETTER FROM HON. S. A. COBB, CONCERNING THE CHANGE IN THE POSTAL LAW.

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER:—Since writing you a few days ago, I am able to tell you definitely about the passage of the act increasing the price of postage on third-class matter in the mails and about which you justly complain in your issue of the 17th instant. It was put on as an amendment to the "Sundry Civil Bill" in the senate, then agreed to in conference committee and concurred in the house without attracting attention or discussion of any sort. The post-office committee of the house, by a very large majority were opposed to the change and would have opposed it to the last, had it come to their knowledge that such an amendment had been incorporated in the bill. That notice would have been had in ordinary legislation. But it was not so enacted. It was passed in the closing hours of congress in the midst of an indescribable confusion when by the very necessity of the case members must take as their guide of action the report of conference committees. I totally disagree with you in your estimate of the franking privilege as it now exists and cheerfully assume my part of the responsibility in the matter. It is not the privilege of the member, but of his constituents. During my brief term in congress, my expense for postage in public matters amounted to nearly five hundred dollars. Can you give any reason why I ought to take this sum, from my pay and expend it in public business? It was the abuse and not the use of the franking privilege that the people complained of.

I do not believe the considerate voice of history will reflect your sentiments in relation to the Forty-third congress. On great public questions it acted cowardly, but never dishonestly. It passed us jobs. It refused to subsidize the Texas Pacific Railway, although asked to do so by as respectable and potent an organization as the National Grange. Least of all do I think you speak the sentiment of this State. The Forty-third congress was generous to Kansas. It planted here the genius of two public institutions that will blossom into ornaments of our commonwealth, and it came forward with a lavish hand and poured out its treasure to feed and clothe the afflicted and stricken people of the frontier.

Not to particularize further, these alone merit the gratitude of a brave and generous people.

Very Truly Yours,

STEPHEN A. COBB.

Wyandotte, Kansas.

### DO YOU GET YOUR PAPER REGULAR?

It is our earnest wish that every copy of the FARMER should reach our subscribers. If from any cause your paper fails to reach you regularly, write us the facts on a postal card. Something is wrong with the postal regulations in the direction of Norton and Jewell counties subscribers write that packages are torn open; and papers missing.

### NOTES FOR BREEDERS AND BUYERS.

STOCK SALES.—The following herds and parts of herds, will be sold at the UNION STOCK YARDS, Chicago, at the time stated:

ELLIOTT & KENT, of Des Moines Ia.	April 8
J H KISSINGER, Clarkville Mo.	April 9
J H DAVIS, Danville Ky.	April 18
L V TOWNE, Hannibal Mo.	May 19
J P SANBORN, Port Huron Mich.	May 20
AVERY & MURPHY, Port Huron Mich.	May 21
J R SHELLEY, Shannon Ill.	May 22

The annexed sales will take place as follows:

WM RHODES, Burlington Wis.	March 31
C C PARKS, Clydesdale horses, Waukegan Ill.	April 6
Glen Flora herd,	April 6
MILTON BRIGGS, Kellogg Station Ia.	April 15
S W JACOBS, West Liberty Iowa,	April 14
J H PICKERELL, Harriestown Ill. at Decatur.	April 27

Joint sale of W R DUNCAN, W M SMITH and NOAH FRANKLIN, of Towanda, at Bloomington Ill.

J H SPEARS & SONS, of Tallula, at Bloomington Ill.	April 28
WM BLACK, Carrollton Ill.	April 29
CHAS LOWDER, of Plainfield Ind., at Indianapolis.	May 27.

California leads the van in generous donations to Kansas sufferers: thanks to the Golden State.

The new Postal Cards will be out about the middle of April.

It is said that Andy Johnson is to be investigated for bribery.

## Meteorology.

For the Kansas Farmer.

Weather Report for February, 1875.

Prepared by Prof. F. M. Snow, of the State University.

Station—Lawrence, Kansas, corner of Tennessee and Piskney streets; elevation of barometer and thermometer 384 feet above sea level, and 14 feet above the ground; anemometer on the University building, 105 feet above ground.

The coldest February on our 8 years record. Mean temperature 31.92, which is 10.28 below the average February temperature of the 7 preceding years. The next coldest February was in 1874, with a mean of 27.5. Mean temperature at 7 a. m. 18.21; at 2 p. m. 29.43; at 9 p. m. 21. Maximum, 55° at 2 p. m. on the 28th; minimum, 8° below zero at 7 a. m. on the 4th; range of temperature 63°. The mercury fell below zero on 3 days, making 14 such days for the winter. There were 18 such days in the winter of 1874-75.

The following table is inserted for the purpose of comparing the past winter with the seven preceding winters:

Winter of	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Se'm.	Low	Highest
Tem.	Tem.	Tem.	Tem.	Tem.	Tem.	Tem.
1868-69	34.50	23.07	36.71	31.29	-7.0	73.0
1869-70	34.28	30.30	30.63	32.49	-15.5	74.0
1870-71	39.29	39.45	35.43	31.59	-4.0	69.0
1871-72	38.70	38.38	35.39	30.98	-10.0	71.5
1872-73	34.91	34.55	30.44	36.57	-13.0	61.0
1873-74	19.38	18.31	30.80	32.98	-3.0	68.0
1874-75	31.87	28.01	27.50	28.96	-3.5	67.5
1874-75	31.01	15.60	31.29	22.94	-16.5	58.0
Mean 8 yrs.	28.08	34.88	30.90	27.95	-11.8	65.4

It will be seen from the above table that the mean temperature of the winter months now closed was slightly lower than that of the winter of 1873-74 but that the extremes were much less severe than then.

Rain and melted snow (Feb., 1875), 0.90 inch, which is 0.16 inch below the average for this month. Slight rain or snow fell on 10 days. Depth of snow, 4 inches. Flashes of lightning at 11 p. m. on the 29d.

Mean cloudiness 50.48 per cent. of the sky, which is 3.15 per cent. above the February average. Number of clear days, 8 (entirely clear 1); half clear, 13; cloudy, 8 (entirely cloudy, 3). Mean cloudiness at 7 a. m., 50.36 per cent.; at 2 p. m., 60.00 per cent.; at 9 p. m., 41.07 per cent.

WIND:—N W, 25 times; S W, 31 times; N E, 15 times; S E, 13 times; E, 5 times; N, 4 times; W, once. The entire distance traveled by the wind was 11,865 miles, which gives a mean daily velocity of 429.50 miles, and a mean hourly velocity of 17.65 miles. The highest hourly velocity was 40 miles, from 5 to 7 p. m. on the 2d; the highest daily velocity was 1070 miles on the 3d.

Mean height of the barometer 29.174 inches; mean at 7 a. m. 29.192; at 2 p. m. 29.188 inches; at 9 p. m. 29.192 inches; maximum 29.694 inches at 7 a. m. on the 4th; minimum 28.534 inches at 2 p. m. on the 29d; monthly range 1.170 inches.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY:—Mean for the month, 74.72; at 7 a. m. 84.29; at 2 p. m. 69.54; at 9 p. m. 80.35; highest daily mean, 90.5 on the 18th (dampest day); lowest, 37.5, on the 5th (driest day). There was one fog.

Weather Report for January, 1875.

For the Kansas Farmer.

STATION:—ELLINWOOD, Barton county, Kansas. Latitude, 38°, 31 minutes, N.; Longitude, 98°, 35 minutes, W.; Elevation, 1802 feet above level of sea; Thermometer in open prairie, 5 feet from ground.

B. B. SMITH,

Observer.

Mean temperature for month, 11.80°; mean for 7 a. m., 5.35°; mean for 2 p. m., 30.42°; mean for 9 p. m., 9.71. Average daily maximum 28.02°; average daily minimum, 0.18° below zero.

Highest temperature for month, 23d, 1.30 p. m., 46°; lowest, 9th, 6.15 a. m., 24° below zero. Range, 70°.

Days on which the mean temperature reached or exceeded 32°—36th, 37.7°, 25th, 35.2°, 23d, 33°.

Days on which the mean temperature was zero or below:—13th, 12°; 14th, 10.3°; 8th, 8.3°; 4th, 4°; 5th, 3°; 6th, 2°; and 16th, 0.3°, all below zero.

Greatest length of time above 32 degrees, 44 hours, 25th and 26th. Greatest length of time below zero, 6 p. m. 12th to 8 p. m. 15th, 63 hours.

Mean temperature for 18 coldest days, 2d to 19th, inclusive, 1.6 degrees; mean for 7 a. m., 6.2 degrees below; for 2 p. m., 11 degrees; for 9 p. m., 0 degrees.

Thermometer run to or above freezing point every day after the 19th, except the 28th. Run to or below zero every day for the first 19 days, having reached zero before midnight on the 1st. Below zero 36 times at regular hours of observation.

Percent of cloudiness 48; 7 a. m. 56; 2 p. m. 52; 9 p. m. 37. Stormy days, 8; totally cloudy, 5; totally clear, 4. Amount of snow-fall during month, 2½ inches; amount of rain and melted snow, .41th of an inch.

### WINDS.

Average velocity about 12½ miles per hour estimated. Strongest wind, 4 to 6 a. m., 8th, about 60 miles per hour from the north; average for the day, about 55 miles per hour. Calm during month, once.

There was mirage on six mornings, at sunrise, during the month, thus showing that the temperature of the valley, where we are stationed, was several degrees lower than the surrounding hills.

A man who had saved the life of a daughter of a Boston millionaire, received \$250 from the grateful parent. He was so overcome with the magnificent bounty that he paid out every cent of it to seventeen organ grinders who simultaneously serenaded his benefactor.







