

## PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Correspondence cordially invited from all Patrons for this department.

### English Farmers' Alliance.

A number of leading English agriculturists have set on foot an alliance, the object of which is to remove, through proper legislation, some of the evils visited upon English farmers. A circular has been issued detailing the objects and methods of the alliance, from which we quote as follows:

It has been long felt by many farmers, as well as by others who understand the necessities of modern farming, that the conditions under which the cultivation of the soil is carried on are highly detrimental to agricultural prosperity, and, as obstructive to increased production, prejudicial to the interests of both landlords and tenants, as well as of the public at large.

The serious position in which landlords and tenants find themselves placed urgently demands that every legitimate effort be made to encourage the development of the resources of the soil, and the preliminary step in this direction must be to free the business of farming from the trammels of unjust laws, and the cultivation of the soil from the unwise and in many cases absurd restrictions which obstruct its improvement.

The hopes of agricultural reform have hitherto proved delusive, and the reason plainly is because the interests of those engaged in agriculture are not adequately represented in Parliament.

The first thing towards the redress of those agricultural grievances which have to be dealt with by Parliament is manifestly the election of men who really represent the interests of agriculture. To accomplish this, farmers have only to assert their political independence and elect candidates who really represent their views, and thoroughly possess their confidence. The Farmers' Alliance is organized to help towards the return of such representatives, as the proper constitutional means for the redress of the grievances complained of, and to promote the other objects stated in the provisional programme, by the united action of all who are in favor of agricultural reform.

The following is the programme of the Farmers' Alliance, subject to amendment at a general conference of members, to be held in London, July 2d, 1879:

1. To secure the better representation of tenant-farmers in Parliament.
2. To stimulate the improved cultivation of the land by obtaining security for the capital of tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings.
3. To encourage greater freedom in the cultivation of the soil and the disposal of its produce.
4. To obtain the abolition of class privileges involved in the laws of distress and hypothec.
5. To promote the reform of the game laws.
6. To obtain the alteration of all legal presumptions which operate unfairly against tenant-farmers.
7. To secure to ratepayers their legitimate share in county government.
8. To obtain a fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant.

**A GRANGE PRIZE EXHIBITION.**—In a letter to the *Patron* M. E. S. gives an account of an interesting exhibition lately held by Plumias Grange. The members of the Grange participated in an exhibition of butter, bread, pie and cake. Three premiums were given for butter, two for bread, two for dried apple pie, and two for cup cake. Mr. John L. Crow, of Clover valley, received the first premium for butter (\$10). Dedmon Bros., of Sierra valley, received the second premium, (\$5); and Mr. Allen Trimble, of Sierra valley, received the third premium, (\$2.50). Mrs. James Street received the first premium (\$3), for bread, and Mrs. William Sperry received the second premium (\$2); Mrs. John L. Crow, of Clover valley received the first premium (\$3), for dried apple pie; and Miss Millie Huntley, of Sierra valley, received the second premium (\$2). The latter also received the first premium (\$3), for cup cake; and Mrs. William Sperry received the second premium (\$2). After the premiums were decided upon by the several judges, the members of the Grange and many who were not members of the Grange took part in a feast which was spread in good style. The day was very pleasant, and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

**POMONA GRANGE.**—The regular quarterly meeting of this association was held at Grange Hall on Wednesday. Representatives were present from various parts of the county, among whom we may mention Squire Martin, of Two Rock, G. N. Whittaker and Nelson Carr, of Bennett Valley, John Adams, Squire Coulter and A. J. Mills, of this section. Several officers were installed; John Adams, Master; G. N. Whittaker, Secretary; S. T. Coulter, Lecturer; N. Carr, Overseer; and A. J. Mills, Treasurer.—*Santa Rosa Democrat*.

### Keep Up the Grange Meetings.

The still existing Granges are moderately attended during the winter months, but it is the summer season that so often gives the death blow to them. The by-laws say these meetings must be held once per month. But must a few keep up these meetings two-thirds of the year, that the balance, who will not sacrifice a moment of the working season, can enjoy the winter sessions? Of course all cannot attend, but our meetings should not become so nearly depleted during the summer months.

We lack enthusiasm; whether this comes from selfishness, thoughtlessness or indifference, or all, we cannot say. The Masonic organization is hundreds of years old, strong and vigorous, and yet with the social feature far inferior to the Grange. In the Masonic lodge, the "hetter half," the refined half of humanity, never enters. Here in the Grange (all honor to its founders) she is the peer of man, and we may say that it is the only society of all the category that gives women equal rights. Sisters, if the brothers become lukewarm in this cause, it behooves you to rally and stand firm by its colors; you never can afford to lose this vantage ground. See to it that every Grange has the proper encouragement, until it feels able to build its own hall, has its own library, and commands a large influence in the regulation of the educational and social interests of each neighborhood. You have even more at stake in this cause than the brothers. The world's history has given us many examples of noble women; many many of you excel them all.

Thus we can see, that "to be a live Granger" is not all play. And to further this cause, we want ingenious, thoughtful minds, coupled with enthusiastic, hopeful action. The future is full of possibilities for the farming community in this their only organized capacity. Only give us faithful, valiant workers. The "day star" of prosperity is already dawning, and the bright sunlight of assured success only awaits the event of a few more years of thorough work.—*State Grange News*.

**SUCCESSING IS SUCCESS.**—There is an old adage which says, "hunt for your money where you have lost it." The lesson is plain. Every effect has an adequate cause. The point we would now argue is this: In various sections there are subordinate Granges which seem to have lost their vitality, and are drifting along, apparently without a motive. Others are successful in only one thing—it may be in building up strong ties of friendship and personal appreciation; others in stimulating a wide range of reading, thought and discussion; and others still in promoting material interests by experiment, by co-operative sale of produce, or by wholesale purchase of commodities. Not only these half developed societies, but the best working Grange may be made still better. The inference is, ascertain the cause of the present condition, and at once proceed to remove it. Fix your standard, make out your programme, and work up to it. It may take time. There will be many discouragements; many will be slack to take hold. Unite with a requisite number to build up a worthy Grange. Devise ways that are interesting, still keeping in view that the Order is to build up as well as amuse. Infuse your own zeal and activity into the others. Give each something to do to promote the amusement, instruction and good of all the rest. Don't let the work drag. Meet on time, begin on time; be pleasant and helpful all the time and there will be no such word as fail.—*Grange Bulletin*.

**THE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.**—Secretary Adams writes in the *Patron* as follows: "The time for paying the third installment on the G. B. A. stock has been extended from the 9th of June to the 9th of July, after which the stock on which payment has not been made will be advertised, the sale to take place on August 14th, 1879. This additional time was granted by the Directors at the request of stockholders who expressed the opinion that but little stock would be advertised if more time was given. When the last dividend was declared, there had been but two installments, of \$2.50 each, or \$5 per share, paid, and from that small amount the Association was able to pay back to the stockholders \$1.10 on each \$5 paid in. This, with the other direct, not to mention the indirect benefits, resultant from the existence of the Grangers' Business Association, should stimulate every stockholder to the prompt payment of the last installment called in."

**IN MEMORIAM.**—National Ranch Grange, San Diego county, has adopted resolutions to the memory of Bro. Ward Boyd, lately deceased.

**PERSONAL.**—We are informed that Henry W. Caldwell, of Waltham, Mass., and agent of the Eclipse incubator which has been advertised in the *Press* will be in this city on incubator business in July. We have heard of the successful working of this apparatus in this State, and Mr. Caldwell will doubtless come prepared to declare and demonstrate its qualities.

**CHERRIES.**—The rank and file of the *Press* employees desire us to return thanks in their name to Mr. W. H. Jessup, of Haywards, for the bountiful treat of ripe cherries which they received from him last week. They report the fruit very fine.

## AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

### CALIFORNIA.

#### ALAMEDA.

**THE OLD WAY.**—*Reporter*, June 21: Mr. W. A. More, who has a place between Niles and Centerville, tells us that he was very successful in drying fruit last year. He had no particular convenience for drying, but dried it in the ordinary way, as any of our farmers with orchards can do if they choose. He sold about 12,000 pounds at a very good price in San Francisco.

**RAINFALL AT MISSION SAN JOSE.**—*EDITORS PRESS*: Mr. I. C. Woods has requested me to send you an account of the rainfall of 1878 and '79, as compared with that of 1877 and '78: First rain '77 and '78, Oct. 22d, '77; first rain '78 and '79, Oct. 14th, '78. Last rain, '77 and '78, May 21st, '78; last rain '78 and '79, June 10th, '79. Total rainfall 1877 and '78, 23.55 inches; total rainfall 1878 and '79, 18.78 inches.—D. H. HASKEW, Mission San Jose, June 23d.

#### COLUSA.

**THE JUNE NORTHER.**—*Sun*, June 21: We have in this valley a very hard north wind about the middle of June, each year. This sometimes catches the wheat when full ripe and causes a great loss in shelling out. The wind which came last Sunday night, and continued until Tuesday, did not do any great harm in that way, as most of the wheat tall enough to switch out was too green. We are informed, however, that some of the extremely late grain was badly burned by it—cured up like hay. We do not find, however, that this damage has been very extensive. We may therefore conclude that our middle of June wind came at as good a time as possible. These winds come so regularly about the beginning of harvest that the return of them may be looked forward to with certainty, and such preparations as it is possible to make should be made.

**THE BURDENS OF DEBT.**—*Orland Cor. Sun*: We are now in the midst of a harvest which is not the most flattering, but one that would carry us through this year if we owed nothing on the past. But even at a high price, we cannot possibly meet the debts and interest that have been accumulating upon us through years of reckless and dangerous experiments. About one of a hundred is living on the sure plan, spending this year what he made last year. But the 90 and nine are spending this year what they expect to make next, and past experience and observation justify us in saying their expectations will not be realized. On the cash basis we can all live better and make more money. Bad debts and one and one-half per cent. will break any individual corporation or nation in five years.

**PERPLEXITIES OF PRACTICE.**—*John Matthews in Sun*: Some agricultural writers know exactly how to farm, while those of us who have farmed 30 years can't learn to save our lives. We don't know what kind of a season comes next; whether it will rain in November or not till February. We don't know whether the rainfall will be four inches or 40 inches. We do know that we have all kinds of soil and that we farm in all kinds of ways, which we necessarily do as the season advances, knowing all the time that no season will hit all kinds of soil; therefore, expecting to fail to some extent, we adopt a general plan, and farm the very best we can. Wheat sown on dry land may do splendidly one year and be a comparative failure the next, and vice versa, when sown on wet land. Wheat sown on replowed "fallow" where no vegetation goes to seed may grow up full of weeds and oats, where clean wheat, alone, was sown. Land plowed wet has no better crop on it, this year, in some instances, than land plowed dry. Land plowed dry, in Butte county, has raised fine crops, and had it not been plowed dry it would not have been plowed at all those years. In each case I refer to summer-fallow, either dry or wet.

#### CONTRA COSTA.

**EDITORS PRESS.**—Harvesting on the plains and in the valleys of the southeastern part of the county has begun in earnest, and where there is grain to cut it is turning out well. There is no rust and not much foulness. West of Clayton heading has commenced, but is not general. Some fields are yet green, but the most part are ready for the header or reaper. More grain is being cut with the reaper than is usual, owing to the grain being down in places. The hay crop west of the Stone House is excellent and abundant, and is offered in the field in the mow at from \$3 to \$5 per ton. The squirrel pest is a source of loss and annoyance to our farmers, and its abatement is an imperative necessity. Some hills which were heavy with fine grain have been harvested by the rodents. The fruit crop will be abundant, though a small bug is working industriously to lessen it [This is the diabrotica, described on another page.—*Eds. Press.*] Mr. H. Welsh, on Marsh creek, has lost nearly all of a fine crop of nectarines from this cause. In Diablo, Ignacio, Pacheco and San Ramon valleys crops are excellent, the only drawback being foulness. This one item has caused more hay to be cut than can well be cared for or sold to profit. Vineyards look well, and grapes will be abundant. In the hills and valleys west of the Martinez and Dublin road to the county line the crops are fully up to the average, and in many places beyond it. A gentleman who came recently from Plainsburg to Martinez with a large flock of sheep, informed me that from the time of starting until he reached Point of Timber he saw no

sign of a crop, and was astonished at the abundance from Point of Timber to Martinez.—W. H. T., Martinez, June 24th, 1879.

#### FRESNO.

**STRAWBERRY YIELD.**—*Republican*, June 17: S. O. Booth, living in the Central Colony, has this season picked and sold 2,100 pounds of strawberries from a piece of ground, by actual measurement, a rod and a quarter over a quarter of an acre. The total receipts were \$170. He is still picking a few of the British Queen variety.

#### LOS ANGELES.

**EARLY PEACHES.**—*Cor. Anaheim Gazette*: The early peaches which have been marketed in Anaheim from Westminster Nursery have aroused considerable inquiry. The secret of their extreme earliness is too simple to be so called. The trees stand in nursery rows, one year from the bud, very thrifty in growth, and protected from all winds by dense shelter belts. As a rule, mature trees are said to ripen their fruit earlier than young trees. We began to pick Brigg's Red May, June 4th. Then followed Amsden's June, June 8th. The row of Early Alexander was not quite so well protected, and though it ought to ripen with Amsden's, was five days later. Then came Early Beatrice, June 14th. Hale's Early, the old standard early peach, will not be ripe for ten days. As to quality, we consider Alexander and Amsden the finest; Brigg's equally large but not so definite in taste; Beatrice, high colored and good, but not over two-thirds the size of the others. With the introduction of these peaches, and apricots, our fruit season may be said to begin about June 1st.

#### MENDOCINO.

**WOOL.**—*Covelo Cor. Ukiah Press*: Sheep shearing is under full headway. The shearing of many small bands is completed, and some of the crop is being removed. Many of the larger crops have been sold to Mr. Sturtevant. I estimate the number of sheep in this vicinity (that is, those which bring money directly into the valley) at 70,000, which at an average of four pounds each, gives 280,000 pounds of wool to be shipped.

#### MONTEREY.

**THE SALINAS VALLEY.**—*Democrat*, June 21: Harvesting in the valley has fairly commenced. The reports we receive of the turn out are not unfavorable, better, indeed, than people were looking for.

#### NAPA.

**THE VINEYARDS.**—*Star*, June 21: A careful examination of the vineyards of this (St. Helena) and adjoining districts reveals the fact that the grape crop will be abundant and of good quality the present season. The blooming period, always of a precarious character, has past most satisfactorily and left the bunches well set and healthy, some of the berries being in some varieties, the size of peas. The only thing the vintner has to fear from this time on, is the mildew, which has already made its appearance in some places, (generally in low lands) but which can be prevented by a judicious use of sulphur. In this neighborhood the vines, with a few unimportant exceptions escaped frost and bid fair to exceed last year's crop, both in quantity and quality. Calistoga and vicinity suffered severely and cannot probably be set down at more than half a crop. Rutherford and Oakville were also injured to a considerable extent on the east side of the railroad, leaving the extensive vineyards of H. W. Crabb, J. C. Davis and others on the west side of the valley comparatively uninjured. The princely vineyard of G. Graezinger, at Yountville, although severely threatened for a succession of nights in the forepart of April, was saved by the persistent efforts of Mr. G. and his men who kept fires burning and the vines covered with smoke from three o'clock a. m. until sun rise, thus defeating Jack Frost and his mischievous imps, an example which should be followed by all vineyardists who wish to save their crops. In the lower part of the valley, the situation is rather gloomy. The east side suffered most, in fact but little may be expected there, whilst the west side fared better, although a considerable percentage of the crop is gone. Take it all in all, the vintage of 1879 for Napa county bids fair to be a bounteous and remunerative one.

#### SAN DIEGO.

**CROPS.**—*News*, June 20: So far as the crop outlook goes, especially in this county, it does not amount to much. The grain yield will be fair, but the potato and honey crop are failures. Wool has done quite well both as to quantity and quality. The rainfall was light, or as some say, about up to an average, but certainly not enough along the coast to secure first rate yields; and this with the absence of moisture since the rain ceased, thereby defeating the honey crop, makes it hard on many of our producers. We hope they may be able to struggle through it, and to look for better luck. It is likely, too, that our farmers are learning more every year about the soils, the seasons, and the time to plant as well as the manner of planting, so that we ought to expect better things in the future.

#### SANTA BARBARA.

**LOMPOC HARVEST.**—*Record*, June 14: Harvesting is going on vigorously. The yield bids fair to be a good one. The wheat on Sal si Puentes and Santa Rita will be a good crop, much larger than was at one time anticipated. Heacock's and Poland's wheat is now about ripe, the kernels being large and plump and entirely free from rust or blight.

**USING UNPRODUCTIVE ALMOND TREES.**—*Press*,