

## PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Correspondence cordially invited from all Patrons for this department.

### The State Agricultural Society and the Grange.

EDITORS PRESS:—The following circular letter has been sent to all the Granges in the State, but it is a matter of general interest to all farmers, and indeed, to all classes. If you will copy the same, or call attention to the matter in such manner as suits you, you will confer a favor on the Society:

**Brother and Sister Grangers:**—We desire to call your attention to the fact that the State Agricultural Society was established for the encouragement and support of agriculture, and the practical education and elevation of all those engaged in that calling or occupation. Its main objects and purposes are therefore the same as those of the Grange. Grangers are more interested in its proper management and success than any other class of citizens. The Society, for the first time since its organization, is now practically in the hands of members of our Order—the President and Secretary, and four out of the nine directors being Patrons. It is under these circumstances we appeal to every Granger, male and female, in the State, to come to the aid of the State Agricultural Society: give it your support, and secure its proper management and benefits. Attend its fairs and bring with you some of the products of your farms, your orchards and your vineyards, for exhibition, for competition and comparison. Let us make the State fairs hereafter the occasion of a general annual harvest feast and practical thanksgiving, as well as a school for practical advancement and improvement.

This year, for instance, the hopes of many a farmer have been blasted and his year's profits destroyed by the interposition of that dreaded wheat enemy called rust. It is believed that by a proper investigation of the causes and habits of this destructive fungus, a partial, if not a complete remedy may be found. What better occasion or opportunity can be had, than is offered at the annual fairs of the State? Let those more directly interested in this question bring to the fair samples of wheat of all the different varieties raised in the State, both samples of the grain that has escaped the rust, and samples of such as have been affected by it in all the different degrees, to be shown together with brief statements of the soil, exposure, mode of cultivation, and any other facts connected with the history of each sample. A hundred samples (a thousand would be better), should be shown at our next fair, and they would make for the grain farmers of the State one of the most interesting and profitable exhibitions that could be made, and for scientists, a valuable study. Let this investigation be followed up year after year, and it can hardly be possible but that great benefits would follow.

So with fruits—the worms are becoming very prevalent, and this subject could and should be investigated in a similar manner. So with rot and other diseases of the potato. So with the phylloxera on the vine; and worms that destroy the corn after the ears are formed, and many other matters of vital and direct interest to farmers, and indirect interest to all other classes. The fairs should be places for study as well as amusement and recreation. The failures as well as successes in every department of cultivation should be shown and studied. But we have said enough to indicate our ideas, and will leave the matter with you, believing that the importance of the subject will prompt thought and energetic action.

H. M. LARCE, President.  
I. N. HOAG, Secretary.

Sacramento, Cal., July 28th.

#### The Welcome to Martinez.

Our Sacramento correspondence last week, it was stated that a Grangers' Convention would be held with Alhambra Grange at Martinez, on August 22d and 23d, to discuss the State fair and kindred subjects. W. T. Dr. Strentzel writes to the *Patron* the following welcome to the proposed meeting: "Your proposal to convene delegates from adjoining counties in Grange meeting at Martinez, on the 22d and 23d of August, was brought before the Alhambra Grange, and most favorably received. Resolutions passed to that effect, and a reception committee appointed. Our Grange hall is of ample space, our harvest room is not sumptuously furnished, but it can accommodate many hundreds. We have plenty of bread, meat and 'taters,' some of the luxuries of ripening fruits, and a 'drop,' if needed, for the stomach's sake; so come every one and all, and be assured of a cordial reception."

#### Appeal of the Committee.

The following appeal has been issued to the members of the subordinate Granges by the committee whose appointment was noted in our Sacramento correspondence last week: We, the undersigned, have been appointed a committee by Sacramento Grange, No. 12, to communicate with all the Granges in the State, and to urge upon its individual members the importance of contributing something towards making up a grand exhibition at our coming State fair. Of the eleven officers of the Board, six of them are active members of the Grange, and we can truly

say that the future of the Society never looked better than it does to-day. We therefore, as Patrons of Husbandry, earnestly ask your co-operation with our brother Directors to assist them in every possible way in your power, and with your contributions, to make this the most successful exhibition ever displayed on the Pacific coast. In place of having a mere sample of fruits, vegetables and cereals, let us have a bountiful supply of all productions of the soil, and a generous representation from the animal kingdom. Instead of exhibiting half a dozen sacks of cereals, as heretofore, in a State that exports more wheat than gold dust, let us have an exhibition from 100 to 500 sacks. Let us make it felt that the Grange is still a power in the land—Fraternally yours, W. S. Manlove, Chairman; Geo. Rich, Secretary; Fannie L. Manlove, Delania D. Hull, Julietta Hancock, Chas. Hull, James Rutter, Daniel Flint.

### Grange Suggestions.

Field meetings and re-unions of the Patrons in some shady grove for rest and recreation are now the order of the day. We need hardly add do not make the day one of so much labor and care that it shall bring neither rest nor pleasure. Make it pre-eminently social. Have a good word and a pleasant look for everybody. Don't stand too much on ceremony. They who are gentle and kind and considerate of others are always polite. Don't let the choir do all the singing, but at any rate join in the chorus with spirit, and if you can with understanding. These holidays do not come often enough; make the most of them when they do come. The man who is repeatedly changing his work, and who can chat with his passing neighbor or read in his newspaper at noon, may not need it, but he should consider those of the household who cannot do as he has done, and who must recruit up by a day's rest now and then.

That the residents of the towns and villages, under a mistaken notion of the purposes of the Grange, should have an antipathy to the Order of Patrons is a matter of no surprise. Men do not look with a friendly eye on what is supposed to be unfriendly to their personal interests. Time will do away with this. But in almost every community we find persons engaged in agriculture who spare no pains to show their hostility. The Grange says plainly, we are working for the interests of agriculture, and incidentally for the whole country. It would be a better indication of sound sense in the opposer to send in his application for membership, and see what this dangerous secret is.

Too many Patrons have supposed that because the Grange numbered more subordinate societies or lodges, and an aggregate membership greater than any other social order, no difficulty would be experienced in carrying out successfully any well devised plan of co-operation to promote the interests of farmers. There has been no more difficult task for Patrons than this. Farmers have become wedded to their modes of business, and are the last men in the world to surrender an established custom for another, however plausible. In this, as in other respects, the few must take the lead, and demonstrate the wisdom of their cause by success. The hesitating and indifferent will soon follow.

Many of the Grange stores—no difference what the plan adopted—have failed or closed up. "We told you so," is the common and self-satisfied comment, and the world is too ready to conclude that the farmer is incompetent to conduct successfully even a small mercantile business, or that he found the profits so much smaller than he expected, as to quit in disgust. Of course, shop-keeping is a trade to be learned, and in the learning to make mistakes, but wherever the Grange store has opened, the community have reaped a benefit in the sudden and general fall of prices in that neighborhood. The cause is worth being remembered.

What evidence have we that the agricultural class, through the Grange, have received, or are receiving, any benefit intellectually? Was the doubting inquiry propounded a few days since. To answer the question would require a column, not a paragraph. A single instance will be sufficient. We attended a Grange meeting, the other day, when the speaker discussed an abstract proposition, occupying nearly an hour in a close logical argument, and not one of his 500 hearers left the grounds or spent the time in side talk. Five years ago, a baker's dozen would not have remained to the end.—*Grange Bulletin.*

**A NEW GRANGE WANTED IN TEHAMA COUNTY.** We are in receipt of a letter from Bro. H. B. Jolly, formerly a member of the Merced Grange, but now a resident of Tehama county, in which he says: "The farmers of our valley are desirous of having a Grange organized, and would like to know when it would be convenient for a deputy to meet with us." The necessary information was sent Bro. Jolly, and we hope soon to hear of the organization of Grange No. 278.—*Patron.*

**NATIVE PLANTS.**—We have received from our contributor, W. C. L. Drew, of El Dorado, Cal., his special autumn catalogue of California lilies and bulbs. This is Mr. Drew's first catalogue of this kind and will doubtless be welcomed by those who desire to cultivate some of our peerless native plants of the bulbous persuasion.

## AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

### CALIFORNIA.

#### AMADOR.

**A CONTRAST.**—*Times*, Aug. 2: Forty years ago wheat was threshed with a flail, and a slow and laborious process it was. Now a steam threshing machine, like that belonging to W. W. Carlisle, operating in this valley, will thresh and clean from 1,600 to 2,000 bushels of wheat a day. On one occasion it threshed out 2,300 bushels in a day. This is a good example of the modern improvements in agricultural machinery in use in California.

#### BUTTE.

**RUILED GRAIN.**—*Record*, Aug. 2: While coming home from Colusa county, last week, we noticed what seemed a splendid field of grain on the ranch of John Bowers. From the road it was the best looking stand of grain we had seen on the trip. Yesterday, Mr. W. M. Bowers brought into the office a quantity of heads from this same field, not one of which contained a single kernel of grain. He informed us that an examination discovered the whole field of a hundred acres to be in the same condition.

#### EL DORADO.

**HILL CULTURE OF WHEAT.**—*Republican*: Last September, in writing up the exhibits at our county fair, we noted a bundle containing 52 well headed stalks, grown on F. Veerkamp's ranch, at Granite Hill, Coloma township, said 52 stalks being the product of one kernel of wheat. The large wheat stools of which this was a sample were found on the outer edge of the field, and averaged twice, three or quadruple the number of stalks to the stool, and proportionately exceeded in size and weight of head, those where the seed had been sown more thickly. Acting upon the idea thus suggested, and to demonstrate what could be produced in a given period from one kernel of wheat most judiciously handled, Mr. Veerkamp this spring planted in rows, corn fashion, the wheat from the 52 stalks above mentioned. The kernels were planted about four or five inches apart, in drills about 21 inches apart, making three rows about 31 yards—93 feet—in length. Last Tuesday we had an opportunity of inspecting the results thus far obtained. The patch of wheat stands from two and a half to four feet in height. The stalks are extraordinarily large and strong. We measured one head which exceeded six inches in length, and the average would fall but little, if at all short of five inches. In one stool we counted 72 stalks, and in one of the smallest we counted 42 stalks. The results conclusively demonstrate that by planting wheat in drills, as we plant Indian corn, giving the plants room to stool and spread, one-fourth of the seed usually used in sowing seed broadcast will produce more grain, and of better quality than is commonly raised by the latter method, and it is unquestionable that the drill method is much less exhaustive of the land. We are glad to learn that Mr. Veerkamp intends to pull up by the roots and exhibit in a stack at the pavilion next fall the entire product of this little patch of wheat. Thus our people will be brought face to face with enormous possibilities of production from one kernel of wheat within two years, when the same is most intelligently and judiciously handled. Even then the results will appear incredible.

#### LAKE.

**HILL FARMING.**—*Bee*, July 31: Mr. John Burger has a hill ranch about three miles north of Lakeport, which he was told, two years ago, was only suited for a sheep walk, and hardly for that. Mr. Burger, however, thought he knew better, and proceeded at once to put it in a proper condition for cultivation. Last summer he followed the land and sowed it in wheat early in the fall. There were those who held up their hands in holy horror at the idea of a sane man expecting to reap a crop of wheat on such land that would pay him for plowing but Mr. Burger winked one eye and continued to sow. He has just finished threshing this crop and to the astonishment of some, but not much to himself, he has harvested a fraction over 35 bushels of plump splendid wheat to the acre on the average, and he says he is satisfied if some of it had not fallen down before harvest, he would have saved 40 bushels. He has also a young orchard which is loaded down with fruit, and his vines are doing splendidly.

#### NAPA.

**GRAPE PRICES.**—*St. Helena Star*, Aug. 1: It is reported that H. W. Crabb has bought 700 tons of grapes, from the vineyards of John C. Davis, T. J. Safford and W. C. Watson, at a lump price of \$18 a ton. We understand that a prominent wine manufacturer has offered \$22 for foreign and \$15 for Mission, for a large vineyard, which was declined. Captain Gluyas informs us that his crop is about an average, but that of other vineyards which he has examined, a number are lighter than usual, owing to the rains and hot weather in the early part of June.

**GRAPE CROP OF NAPA VALLEY.**—*Register*, Aug. 1: The grape crop of the valley this season promises to be a bountiful one, though the total yield will probably not be quite as large as that of last year. In the upper part of the valley grapes on high land are well set, the bunches being of good size, but on lower lands the clusters are not so well formed. The spring frosts damaged the crop to some extent in different localities, but the practice in vogue by many vintners of building fires in their vineyards in seasons of frosts saved thousands of dollars to

the valley. At the present time mildew is giving some trouble, but vigilant vinegrowers subdue this by the free use of sulphur. The yield of 1877 was 575,462 gallons wine, 8,230 gallons brandy, 3,360 acres vines being cultivated. The yield last year was much greater, being of wine, 1,494,500 gallons; of brandy, 30,410; acres in cultivation, 36,035.

#### PLACER.

**FINE CROPS.**—*Folsom Telegraph*, Aug. 2: The ranchers near Roseville have harvested fine crops of wheat, barley and hay; the yield being far in excess of their anticipations in the early part of the season.

#### SACRAMENTO.

**FRUIT DRYING AT FOLSOM.**—*Telegraph*, Aug. 2: The fruit drying house has commenced operations, and large quantities of peaches and plums are now constantly undergoing the drying process. A number of girls are employed in selecting, packing, etc., and give the best satisfaction to their employers.

#### SAN DIEGO.

**BIRDS AND BEES.**—*News*, July 26: Birds continue their depredations on fruit trees, pecking peaches before they are ripe, and then the little honey makers take hold and finish. Linnets and mocking birds seem to be the worst on peaches, but doves and quail try to keep all the grapes from ripening. Some of us will consider ourselves in luck if we get any ripe grapes or figs, on account of birds and bees, but I shall try strychnine on the former and another kind of exterminator on the latter, if I don't lay up a cent.

#### SAN JOAQUIN.

**THE WHEAT YIELD.**—*Harb*, July 29: The reports that are given by farmers, who have threshed their grain, are of a most satisfactory character. The estimates that were made on the yield of wheat before threshing have uniformly been too low, and instead of farmers being compelled to return surplus grain sacks to dealers after threshing, as is usually the case, a great many, a large majority of those who have threshed, have been compelled to purchase additional lots to hold the larger yield than they had calculated upon. The wheat crop of San Joaquin county has this year generally been underestimated. It may be well enough to remark that if there is any county in California that is more prosperous to-day than San Joaquin, the fact is not generally known.

#### SAN MATEO.

**HARVESTING.**—Half Moon Bay cor. *Redwood Times*: The farmers are still at work stacking their grain, and in a few weeks threshing will be in full force. A trial of Shoults & Dolloff's new engine was made on Wm. Nelson's grain, which proved entirely successful. Half Moon Bay this season can boast of as good an average crop as any in the state.

**DERRICK.**—George W. Lovie has rigged a derrick for the stacking of loose grain, which is a perfect success. He has the grain brought to the place where he desires to build the stack, on sleds, the sides of which are made of baling rope, which connect on the bottom of the sled to the pieces of wood with a catch. The sled is then brought to the spot, and on being hoisted up, a small string, which is attached to the catch, is pulled, and the load of grain is dropped where desired. About 25 acres of grain a day can be stacked with the help of three sleds, five men, one hoy and seven horses.

**ROTATION AND CULTIVATION.**—I. C. Steele in *Patron*: Flax has been found to leave land in good condition for wheat in the vicinity of Pescadero. Wheat is generally good along the coast this season. It is especially fine where flax was raised last year. Potatoes fit land nicely for other crops, and some farmers are of the opinion that they impart some virtue to the soil. In the dry season, two years ago, we saw a splendid crop of barley on a dry knoll, while all the surrounding land was dry and parched. On inquiry we learned that the land where the barley was growing was planted with potatoes the previous year; the land was well cultivated, but the potato crop did not amount to much. It was probably the cultivation, and not the potatoes, that benefited the barley.

We saw beautiful fields of wheat occasionally amid general failure the same season, and feeling a deep interest in the causes that gave such unusual results, we made inquiry, and found the land received two plowings in the summer, and a third at seeding. It is an interesting fact worth knowing that rest and till will do so much for the productive power of land, and presents a subject of great interest to those who love to study natural causes. But our subject is a system of rotation in crops as a means of maintaining the productive forces in the soil under annual cropping, and our object is to call the attention of farmers to the subject by a few suggestions, with the hope that others will take up the subject, and give us the benefit of their experience.

#### SANTA BARBARA.

**SEEDLING PEACH.**—*Independent*, August 2: O. N. Cadwell, the owner of Pomona's Retreat, a rich, rare and beautiful orchard situated in Carpinteria in this county, has just brought us in a box of the finest, handsomest, largest and richest peaches we have seen this year, from a seedling tree of his own raising.

#### SONOMA.

**FOOTHILLS FOR WHEAT.**—*Healdsburg Enterprise*, July 29: Last spring we noted the fact that Mr. Wheaton of Dry Creek had summer-fallowed several acres of upland and sowed it