

## PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Correspondence cordially invited from all Patrons for this department.

### Home Life and Grange Helps.

EDITORS PRESS:—There are so many kind invitations in the PRESS to write, so many are asking for home letters, and of what we are doing on our farms, of the successes and failures we are making, that although not a regular contributor, I feel like telling you of life at Sunny farm. We have 1,000 acres of land. Some of it is good grain land, and some of it yields a good quality of hay; but owing to the scarcity of water the crop is small. The most of our farm is sage-brush pasture land, inviting us we thought to use it for dairy purposes; so to dairying we went, six years ago. Neither my husband nor I had had any experience therein. But our Grange and these years of labor have taught us much. The 25 cows with which we began, were gotten together without our knowing anything of their milking qualities, and neighbors who had had years' experience in dairying, told us we must not expect to make more than 100 pounds of butter to the cow a year, aside from what we used in our family. But in our Grange there has a strong spirit of ambition sprung up, as to who shall make the most butter to the cow from their dairy. Last year we made 200 pounds, and the experience of one or two others makes us feel we must still improve. What with two years of utter failure of crops from grasshoppers, much sickness, and losses in many ways, we have found farming up-hill work, yet for all that we have not been idle. We have built a large barn, and a good warm dairy-house; and lastly, a pleasant comfortable white house stands on the mountain side, in place of the wee cabin home, in which the first years of our married life were spent. Last summer we built a nice fence around our house, and we are dreaming dreams of a fountain and some hardy shrubbery in the future. We have brought water a long weary distance, from a mountain spring, in gas pipes, and though the supply is short, last year we rejoiced in the very small beginning of a garden. For three months and a half we have seen nothing but "beautiful snow," which has altogether lost its beauty to us.

But we have been pleasantly occupied in doors. My husband has read aloud from the RURAL PRESS and other papers, and from our Grange library books. And I have been busy with my home-making, for all the money has had to go on the ranch; and the home can only be made bright by the devices of these resting seasons.

Some time I hope some of our Grangers will write you of what a profitable live Grange we have at Beckworth, and some time I should like to tell your lady readers of my home-making.

MARY S.

Beckworth, Plumas Co., Cal.

[We hope "Mary S." will take both these duties upon herself. We shall be pleased to hear of both Grange and home.—EDS. PRESS.]

### Bennet Valley Reunion.

We are informed that the Grangers of this charming valley, in Sonoma county, have planned a reunion to which neighboring Granges are invited, to be held at the Grange Hall, May 27th. Bro. Nelson Carr assures us that everything will be done to make the occasion one of pleasure and profit, and from what we know of the dwellers in the vicinity, we are sure that it will be a gathering of earnest, intelligent and pleasant people. An outline of exercises will be issued ere long, and then we expect to give more definite notice of the meeting.

#### The Programme.

Since writing the above, we have received the following:

EDITORS PRESS:—Bennet Valley and Santa Rosa Granges will have a joint picnic at Bennet Valley Grange Hall and Grove, on the 27th of May, 1880. Prof. E. W. Hilgard, of the University, is expected to deliver an address. Other speakers will be present. The meeting will be open to all, and all are cordially invited to come, bringing their lunch baskets. Dancing-music will be furnished, and vocal music is arranged for. Everybody is invited. Santa Rosa, Cal. E. W. DAVIS.

### The Lodi Meeting.

The Grangers' re-union, which should have been held here three days, beginning the 21st inst., was indefinitely postponed on account of the weather. Of course it was impossible to get word to this effect to the people in the surrounding country. On Wednesday and Thursday, in spite of the rain, our streets were thronged with people. We premise from this, that when the re-union is held, there will be a very large attendance. It will not be necessary to postpone it for any great length of time. The soil in this vicinity is a light sandy loam, and a good brisk wind, and a few hours' sunshine, is all that is needed to put the roads in a good condition. There a great many agricultural implements lying at the freight office, shipped here from all parts of the State, which were intended

to be placed on exhibition; consequently, this delay has been a great disappointment to our people as well as to visitors. It is thought it will not be postponed over two weeks. Due notice, however, will be given.—Lodi Valley Review.

#### This Date Set.

We learn by a letter from Bro. Phelps dated April 27, that the re-union will be held in May, beginning May 13th and continuing three days.

LITERARY EXERCISES.—We learn from a letter of Bro. J. D. Reyburn to the Patron, that Salida Grange, of Stanislaus county, in addition to the regular order of business, has added a Grange paper, called the *Salida Grange Journal*, with four editors, agricultural, scientific, household and miscellaneous. "A. H. Elmore assumes the editor's chair of the agricultural department; J. P. Vincent, scientific; Mrs. M. E. Reyburn, household, and B. F. Parkes is the quill-driver for the miscellaneous department. With this addition, we can always find something to do, if the editors are on hand with their papers full of news."

GRANGERS' STORE AT SACRAMENTO.—A member of Sacramento Grange writes as follows: "Trade is growing at the Grange store. A number of the mountain Granges make out lists of goods to fill. I see no reason why the co-operative system of trade will not extend among farmers in general. Since the opening of the store many are coming into the Grange who had not much faith in the institution, but now see it is permanent, progressive and beneficial to the farming class."

### Grangers' Business Association.

The following report is from the *California Patron* for May 1st:

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Grangers' Business Association was held in the Grangers' building, corner of California and Davis streets, April 14, 1880. There was a large attendance of stockholders; and about two-thirds of the entire number of shares were represented. The President of the Board of Directors, Daniel Inman, in the chair. The Secretary read a report from the Business Manager, showing a good, healthy condition of the business of the house, and that the aggregate sales for the year ending March 31, 1880, exceed one and one-quarter of a million of dollars. This report also showed a net profit, after paying all expenses, of a sum sufficient to pay a dividend of one dollar per share on all the stock outstanding. In this connection we will say it was the intention of the directors to have declared a dividend of one dollar per share and credit it on each share of stock. But upon a more thorough examination of the law controlling corporations, it was found impossible to pursue this course. The only way to accomplish this end would be to levy an assessment of one dollar per share, and apply the dividends to its payment. But as this course might involve the association in an expense for advertising of from \$50 to \$100, the directors concluded it would better subserve the interests of the association not to declare a dividend or levy an assessment, but to allow the accumulated profits to remain in the business. Had this dividend of one dollar per share been declared, added to the three former dividends, they would have made an aggregate of dividends declared on each share of stock of two dollars and ten cents. This, we think, considering the fact that only seven dollars and fifty cents have been paid on each share, a very gratifying statement, and should be a stimulant to the stockholders to renew their efforts to increase the business of the association.

The Secretary read his report, showing the amount collected on the last assessment; also the amount of dividends paid out by him. The various reports were received and ordered placed on file. The reports showed that \$14,000 had been paid on the association, one-third interest in the property on the corner of California and Davis streets. A general discussion was entered into as the various reports were read, in which the utmost good feeling was manifested. The President announced the next business in order would be the election of 11 directors; he thereupon appointed S. T. Coulter and A. T. Hatch, tellers.

S. T. Coulter, of Santa Rosa, placed in nomination the present Board of Directors. There being no other nominations, a resolution was introduced and unanimously carried, instructing the Secretary to cast the ballot of the stock represented, for the following persons for directors the ensuing year: Daniel Inman, I. C. Steele, John Lewelling, Amos Adams, A. D. Logan, W. L. Overhiser, A. T. Hatch, Thomas Flint, R. S. Clay, G. W. Coiby and O. Hubbell. The Secretary having performed the duties enjoined on him in the above resolution, the President declared the above-named persons duly elected directors for the ensuing year. After some mutual congratulations on the success of the association, the meeting adjourned.

At a meeting of the directors, held immediately after the adjournment of the stockholders' meeting, the following officers were re-elected: President, Daniel Inman; Vice-President, I. C. Steele; Treasurer, John Lewelling; Secretary, Amos Adams; Auditing Committee, Steele, Flint and Hatch. After transacting business usual on such occasions, the directors adjourned to meet on the second Wednesday in July, at 1 p. m.

AN EARLY MATURING JAPAN WHEAT.—We find in reports of the experiments of the Paris Acclimatization Society a mention of wheat obtained from Japan, a trial of which has resulted in the discovery that Japanese wheat, planted in April or May, is ripe and ready for the harvest quite as early as the European-grown wheat sown some five or six months earlier, and that the yield is equally large with that produced from any of the varieties of European wheat.

## AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

### CALIFORNIA.

#### COLUSA.

PLOW! PLOW! PLOW!—*Sun*, April 24: Every available team in Colusa county ought to be put to plowing as soon as the ground will permit. Summer-fallow left without reploting will certainly be foul, and nothing that a farmer can do will pay so well as reploting summer-fallow after such a rain, even for the increased yield without the benefit of having it all clean. So hard a rain as we have had destroys entirely all the effect of summer-fallow. If it is plowed now, much of the moisture of the present season will be carried over to the next, so that a crop can be raised on seven or eight inches of rainfall. If the season shall be dry it will make ten to twenty bushels to the acre difference, and if wet from five to ten bushels. In any event it will pay big to get every available plow into operation. This is a matter that should not be passed over lightly, as the suggestion of an editor, who knows nothing about farming. We do know. There is nothing about farming that we have not done with our own hands, and we have collected the experience and observation of the very best farmers in this valley. Plow! Plow!

#### CONTRA COSTA.

CROPS.—*Gazette*, April 24: With nearly nine inches of rain so far in April and over 20½ for the season, no apprehension can now be entertained that our crops will fail from lack of sufficient moisture. Some apprehensions may, however, be felt of heavy lodgment of grain and of rust and mildew, should hot or cloudy and sultry weather immediately follow the rains, while the surface earth is so heavily charged with moisture that rapid evaporation under a hot sun would scald the plants, or under cloudy sky with still atmosphere would breed mildew. With cool, breezy weather for a week, however, we should feel ourselves out of danger from such causes.

#### EL DORADO.

EXTRAORDINARY RAINFALL.—*Republican*, April 24: A careful measurement of water fallen at Georgetown, in this county, as measured and recorded at the office of Cal. Water Co., shows that from April 1st to 18th, inclusive, there had fallen 16.88 inches—nearly one inch a day—being twice as much as for the entire month of April, 1879, and four times as much as in any other previous April during the past seven years. It is more than probable that the rain of Monday and Tuesday has swelled these figures to at least 20 inches.

#### KERN.

SHEARING.—*Californian*, April 24: The wool boom of a few weeks ago has been succeeded by a reaction in prices, although not a violent one, the local market remaining quite steady and firm at fair prices. A large number of sheep have been shorn and many remain awaiting that process. The shearing corrals both here and at Delano have been working all the hands they could get. The wool is of better quality, the sheep being cleaner and healthier than in former seasons. This is the market for a large track of country and the time is not distant when it will be the most important wool-shipping point in the interior of the State. The year 1876 was considered a good wool year, so far as the quantity was concerned, and we are informed that the shipments this year are already equal to those of 1876, with probably one-third of the staple still unshorn. The Chittenden Bros. are forwarding every day, and one day last week they received 246 sacks and shipped 240.

#### LASSEN.

CATTLE.—*Advocate*, April 24: Ben Neuhaus lost 16 head of cattle one night last week, and accounts of the death of hundreds of cattle in the surrounding country are coming in every day. The stock men are getting fearfully discouraged, and we do not wonder at it. This terrible winter weather seems inclined to continue all summer, judging from present appearances, and if it does hang on much longer, there will be but few sheep and cattle left in this part of the land.

#### MENDOCINO.

THE RAINS.—*Ukiah Press*, April 23: Discomfort aside, we hear of no positive injury to producing interests so far this month. The rains have mostly been warm and gentle; feed and vegetation are springing; stock is doing well and fleeces are increasing. The spring clip will get to market later, but with bulk increased by the delay. Undoubtedly poor sheep on high ranges have perished under the unusual rigors of the spring; but this loss is more than counterbalanced by the assurance of luxurious feed. We have not been able to learn the effect upon crops.

DURHAM STOCK.—*Dispatch*: Dr. Standley has just received from John E. Moore, of Stockton, 10 full-blooded Durham calves, about one month old. He now proposes to dispose of his graded stock, and raise only the finest of Durham cattle. It is a move in the right direction, and we trust that the farmers of this county will follow his example. It is a fact, long established, that good stock always pays the best.

#### MERCED.

DROWNED IN A CLOUD-BURST.—*Stockton Independent*: Particulars of the death of C. J. Smith, who was drowned last Wednesday, in Merced county, have just been received in this

city. He was visiting his sheep range, on Deadman's creek, near Plainsburg, intending to begin shearing as soon as the weather should moderate sufficiently, and he had a gang of men camped on the ground for that purpose. The camp of the shearers was on high ground overlooking a gulch, which at this point runs between high and precipitous banks, and Smith occupied a cabin lower down and close to the edge of the gulch. Late on Wednesday afternoon, the weather showing no signs of abating, he left the pens, and accompanied by a Portuguese went to the lower cabin. Shortly after the shearers on the hill above heard a rushing sound, quickly succeeded by a terrible roaring and crackling, as if every rock and boulder on the mountain side had been torn from its hold and was being hurled along the head of the gulch. They knew in an instant what had happened and realized the frightful position of Smith and the Portuguese. They rushed toward the cabin yelling at the top of their voices for the doomed men to leave the cabin, and the latter evidently heard them, for two dazed, bewildered faces appeared at the door for a single instant, the next a solid wall of water, debris and great masses of rock and earth struck the lightly-built shanty, and all that it contained disappeared in the boiling waters. The scene passed like a frightful vision before the eyes of the horrified spectators on the bank, and for a moment they stood as if paralyzed. As soon as the water subsided somewhat, search was made for the unfortunate victims, and the body of the Portuguese was found the next day about two miles below the scene of the catastrophe. The body of Mr. Smith was not found until the next day, having lodged among the rocks about five miles below the camp.

EDITORS PRESS:—The rains here were ample to ensure good prospects of a plentiful harvest, and more has fallen by about two inches than the general average. We have 12 inches, and 10 is usually sufficient. This is around this city; in the hills of course double this amount falls. The creeks were booming, and more benefits were realized than harm done. Carroll & Clay's canal and wood-work stood the pressure of flood and logs, drift stuff, etc., well, being creditable to the managing engineer, Mr. Clay, as the work was only just completed. This is a grand matter, opening up some very good rich garden lands in a large section, which are now to be had at a very low price in very thriving settlements.—MATTHEW J. O'BYRNE.

#### MONTEREY.

CONDITION OF THE COUNTY.—*Index*, April 24: Should no unexpected calamity occur to the growing crops, the present year will be a most prosperous one for Monterey county. The rain has come (been coming for the last two weeks) in bountiful plenty. Throughout the entire length and breadth of the country come cheering assurances of good crops and consequent lively times this fall. The amount of rain that has fallen in Salinas this season, up to the present writing, is over 12 inches. This amount ought surely, and will, give us a good harvest, if that other hug-bear—that other extreme—rust does not set in and make "dead sea apples" of our anticipations. But there is scarcely any cause for alarm in this respect—none at present, nor likely to be for some weeks yet.

#### NAPA.

VINEYARD PRICES.—*St. Helena Star*, April 22: William Scheffler has bought out the remaining portion of H. L. Amstutz' vineyard, amounting to about 22 acres, for \$6,500. He has also leased Orrin Jones' vineyard of 28 acres alongside, making the original Amstutz vineyard of 50 acres now under his management.

CUTTINGS.—H. W. Crabb has sold the large number of 367,000 cuttings from his vineyard this year. Of these, 174,000 were Zinfandel, 53,000 Black Malvoisie, 50,000 Chasselas, 34,000 Burgundys, 26,000 Bergers, 20,000 Johannisberg Reislings, 3,000 Muscats and 3,000 Matars.

#### SAN BERNARDINO.

EDITORS PRESS:—We are now having more rain, but everybody has enough. It is going to be a late spring, as things are very backwards, owing to the long cold spell we have had.—D. T., San Bernardino, April 21.

#### SAN JOAQUIN.

AROUND LODI.—*Review*, April 24: Thousands of acres of wheat on the banks of the rivers and sloughs on the "black land" is under water, but no damage is expected, as the water will drain off in a day or two of fair weather. The tule pasture land west of us is filled with water, though there has been no break in the levees in that vicinity. The grain on upland in this immediate vicinity is looking splendid. With sunshine and clear weather, if no late frosts visit us, we should reap a bountiful harvest of both grain and fruit. We should add, the stock on the tules have not suffered by the storm.

#### SANTA BARBARA.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—*Press*, April 24: The adjourned meeting of the Horticultural Society met pursuant to appointment with largely increased attendance. Mr. Ford, temporary chairman, presiding. For the benefit of new members the by-laws were again read, and new members signed them. A ballot was held for President, for which office Mr. H. C. Ford was the only nomination, and unanimously elected. For Vice-President, Mr. Eals received the highest number of votes. For Secretary Mrs. N. W. Winton. For Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Calkins. The Chair appointed a Nominat