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The State Grange.

"Business Body" was General Verdict.

few of the Subjects That received Favorable Consideration at the Hands of the State Grangers and some Pleasant Incidents.

was a "business body," delegates that met to consider interests of the Order of Sons of Husbandry last week at ... One gentleman, a large owner and for several years a member of the State legislature said the writer: "I had no idea that the State Grange had so many men with such sound ideas on such a variety of subjects and such ability to discuss them as was shown at this meeting. I want to go again next year. We believe that the ignorance professed by this gentleman is unusual among people who have attended one of these meetings. The reports of some of the committees are models of concision and force (not all so, of course) and we would have no hesitancy in placing several of these alongside the best ever given in any similar organization. The report on legislation written by Judge Huntington, person county, was a particularly good paper dealing with a variety of subjects in a clear and concise manner and without quite exhausting. We cite this as a single example.

Growth of the Grange.

The steady growth of the grange movement in 1905 is shown by the following figures. In 1903 the total membership was 54,396. One year later it had crept up to 59,398, while in 1905 the figures had swelled to 65,000. At the close of the year ending September 30, 1905, the reports show 597 granges on his list. This represents a gain of 17 granges in one year. There were 16 new granges organized during the year and one reorganized. The granges have become more numerous during any like period. The general condition of the order never so good. Financially it stands as the rocks. The treasurer, P. A. Welling of Oswego county, reports a balance on hand of \$1,196,000, of \$19,280, as compared with \$17,967 one year ago. During the year he has received \$57 from Sec. Giles and \$411 in accrued interest, thus making a total of \$38,535. The expenditures for the year have been \$10,280. The membership of the New York Grange more than doubled in the last year that Elliot B. Norris was master. In rounding out the term of office he turns the gavel over to his successor, George A. Welling with the satisfaction that the order was never so strong and as now. His report was full of interesting facts and contains many suggestions. Mr. Norris was in Sodas, N. Y., June 25, on Mt. Pleasant farm, where he resides. His farm consists of 100 acres of fertile land in a high state of cultivation. He has been a member of the order of Patrons of Husbandry for 33 years.

of the high officials of the State Grange and other prominent men addressed the meeting. The different sessions among them were: Hon. A. J. Bacheider, of the National Grange, of Albany, Commissioner of Education and Ex-Congressman of New York.

Resolutions Adopted.

Obviously impossible in the past command to give all the resolutions adopted by the grange. The following of local interest are given in full. The report of the committee on the work was read by H. W. Niles, committee chairman. The following resolutions were adopted: The work of the department of Education should be given the highest priority and the State Grange should be authorized to take such measures as may be necessary under the direction of the Commissioner of Education. Draper has been very successful and has met with the

heartily approval of the people wherever such addresses have been made during the past year.

Resolved, That we approve and endorse their work, and would respectfully request the legislature of the State of New York to continue the appropriation now in force and to put it upon a permanent basis.

Resolved, That this State Grange recommend and earnestly request the legislative and administrative departments of the State to make liberal appropriations for general purposes of Agricultural Education.

Resolved, That we heartily approve the appropriation for increased facilities of the Cornell Agricultural College and that we recommend sufficient appropriation to continue the publication and free distribution of the nature study leaflets, teachers and children's leaflets, the farmers' reading courses, and bulletins of the Experiment Station.

Resolved, That an adequate course of study be provided for the teaching of agriculture in the training classes in the academies, high schools and academic department of union free schools of the state, with a view to preparing teachers to give elementary instruction in agriculture in the common schools.

Resolved, That the teaching of nature study in the common schools should be encouraged and emphasized as a fundamental process and an essential foundation for the best teaching in agriculture and that agricultural education should not be considered special or professional, but should be made a part of a general educational system.

Resolved, That the aim should be to co-ordinate the teaching in the agricultural college with that which is to be done in the high schools and common schools throughout the state.

Resolved, That the agricultural college co-operate in every possible way through its bulletins and leaflets in furthering the teaching of nature study and agriculture in the high schools and common schools throughout the state.

Mr. Floney of Canaan grange also introduced a resolution urging the national and state government to take steps to prevent the spread into this state from Massachusetts of the gypsy and brown-tail moths that have been working such devastation among the trees of that state. The resolution was adopted. Another resolution emanating from Columbia county protesting against the increase of the time limit that live stock may be kept on cars without feed or water, from 28 to 36 hours, was also adopted.

Still another resolution from Columbia county was approved, this relating to the appointment of a special committee to investigate the feasibility of a grange life insurance system, and report at the annual session next year. On the parcels post question the grange demanded a liberal Parcels Post system and urged Congress to give the people equal privileges with other civilized countries in this respect.

The grange expressed itself as gratified with the results already obtained from its offer two years ago of \$200 for four agricultural scholarships in Cornell University and this year appropriated \$300 for that purpose recommending that scholarships be for the short course only.

More Resolutions.

Among other important resolutions adopted these may be mentioned:

Favoring the removal of the Internal Revenue Tax from denaturalized alcohol for commercial purposes; favoring the discontinuance of the custom of free seed distribution by members of Congress; urging the passage of the so-called Brownlow bill providing national aid for highways; appropriating \$500 to help defray the expenses for testing the constitutionality of the barge canal act. This resolution was discussed by Hon. John I. Platt of Poughkeepsie, who has been prominent in the work against the barge canal proposition. He said he believed that the people of the State of New York never gave a majority in favor of the barge canal proposition, a fact which he had never before publicly stated. He made the assertion and the accusation that the great majority for the measure in New York city was the grossest fraud ever perpetrated in any election in a northern state. They would have us believe (said he) that there were more votes cast on the barge canal proposition than for the office of mayor. In a single district in New York city there were more votes cast for the barge canal measure than for all the candidates for mayor on the city ticket combined. But even if the

question was carried by the large majority accorded it, the question still arises is the act constitutional? The best legal talent in the state say that it is unconstitutional and I refer to Elihu Root, Joseph Choate, Judge Andrews and Judge Cady.

National Master Bacheider was introduced and said that he was on his way from Washington to the west for the purpose of carrying the grange gospel into the state of Wisconsin. He remarked that the position which the grange now occupies was in great contrast to that of a few years ago when it was almost impossible for it to be heard before any legislative committees either in the state or national capitals. He congratulated the New York State Grange on the excellent work it was doing and said that he should carry into the western work some of the ideas which had made the grange so successful in the eastern states.

Hon. A. S. Draper, Commissioner of Education of the State of New York was present and delivered an able address.

A lecturers' conference was held in the Y. M. C. A. building in charge of the State Grange lecturer, Fred Shepard. National Master Bacheider and National Lecturer Gaunt were present and each spoke briefly on matters of particular interest to the subordinate lecturers of the state. State Lecturer Shepard proposes to organize lecturers' conferences in each county so far as possible.

A pleasing feature of the meeting was the presentation of a beautiful gold watch to the retiring worthy master F. B. Norris.

The Sixth Degree was conferred on 420 candidates, the largest class in many years.

The next session of the State Grange will probably be held at Ithaca but this will not be decided until later. J. W. D.

OLD MEN OUT.

Pension Plans for Harlem Railroad Employes.

The New York Central railroad announced a few days ago, in connection with a proposed pension plan for employes, the adoption of an age limit for the compulsory retirement of men in the employ of the company, following the example of a movement which began with the Pennsylvania railroad and has extended to western roads generally. Among the roads which compel the retirement of employes after they reach a certain age, in addition to the New York Central and the Pennsylvania, are the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, the Michigan Central and the "Big Four."

The news of the appointment of a committee to formulate a pension system, which shall include an age limit for compulsory retirement, has caused considerable apprehension among the employes of the New York Central and along the Harlem.

Many of the most faithful and competent employes of the road are men advanced in years, as well as experience, but who are, as far as mental and physical vigor is concerned, still in prime of life. Compulsory retirement for them, even on a pension, would be a serious reduction. These men include engineers, conductors and trainmen in all branches of the service. — *Amenia Times.*

SUDDEN DEATH.

Eugene J. Murphy Expired Sitting in a Chair.

Eugene J. Murphy, aged 34 years, died suddenly Sunday at the home of his father-in-law, Arthur Drumm, in Austerlitz. He had made several trips to Montana, where he was interested in mining, and again started, when he was taken sick in Michigan. After being in a hospital he started homeward and arrived at Chatham about 6 o'clock Saturday evening, when he was driven to Austerlitz in an exhausted condition. He was unable to stay in bed and arose at an early hour Sunday morning, and at 8 o'clock was found by the members of the family, lying in a chair. Coroner Conklin was called and issued a burial certificate. He found that death was caused by exhaustion from over-exertion. Mr. Murphy leaves a wife and four children.

Col. Co. Court

A Rather Spectacular Case, as it Were.

Prof. Sargent Loses His Case of Instruments and Gets Hit by Broken Glass. He Gets \$3000—Report of the Grand Jury.

Last Monday afternoon was the commencement of the suit of Charles E. Sargent vs. the New York Central railroad. George K. Daley, with D. H. Daley, of Coxsackie, appeared for the plaintiff, Robert Wilkinson, of Poughkeepsie, representing the Central road. The action was one brought for damages alleged to have resulted to the plaintiff from the defendant's negligence on Jan. 20, 1905. The plaintiff is a resident of Albany. On January 20th in question, he was at St. Johnsville, where he bought a ticket for Albany and checked his baggage, containing optician's goods, at the same time telling the baggage man what was in the valise. The action of a passing train drew the valise off the baggage truck and smashed the contents. For that the plaintiff claims damages.

Mr. Sargent's bad luck didn't leave him. Five days later he bought another ticket, this time from Albany to Waterville. While seated in the smoking car, between Herkimer and Ithaca, a passing freight with something extending out too far reached over and hit Sargent's car. This time the glass broken was in the car window, but Mr. Sargent was thrown out of his seat and damaged, he claims, to the amount of \$5,000, including spinal injuries.

During the trial Prof. Sargent while on the witness stand had a sinking attack and apparently fainted away. Dr. Holcomb of Albany thought it caused by the injuries the plaintiff had received. It was not until 5:30 o'clock Friday afternoon that the jury in this case came in and said that it had agreed on a verdict in Action No. 1, awarding the plaintiff the full amount claimed, \$122.78, for the destruction of his suit case and contents, but as to the action No. 2, the claim for personal damages and the real issue in the case, they had not agreed. The court directed them to retire with permission to bring in a sealed verdict if an agreement was reached. In case they do not agree by ten o'clock Saturday morning the clerk was directed to discharge them. But after deliberating all evening they came in at 10 o'clock Friday night with a sealed verdict which was made known Monday afternoon.

Court convened at 2 o'clock Monday and the sealed verdict in the case of Charles E. Sargent, of Albany, vs. the New York Central road was opened. The verdict was for \$3,000 for the plaintiff besides the verdict rendered on Friday of \$122.78 for the damages done Mr. Sargent's suit case and contents on another occasion. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he would move to have the verdict set aside, and March 10th, before Justice Fitts, at chambers was agreed on. Geo. K. Daley of Chatham was attorney for Sargent.

Grand Jury Reports.

The grand jury reported Friday having found three indictments. Two were against Julius Bassell, one for burglary in the third degree and one for malicious destruction of personal property. He was arraigned on the latter indictment and pleaded guilty. Justice Fitts sentenced him to Dannemora for not less than one year and not more than two years and nine months. The other indictment was not pressed at this time by the district attorney. Bassell entered the stable of John Roberts, of Amsterdam, and took two sets of harness and an axe. He cut the harness into small pieces and left town. This happened last November.

The third indictment was against Charles Eighmy, charged with burglary in the third degree. The district attorney arraigned the defendant, but in view of his youth Mr. Choate suggested the advisability of

the appointment of counsel by the court before the defendant was allowed to plead. The court adopted the suggestion and named W. Avedis Hall, who will consult with his youthful client. Eighmy is charged with stealing a cow from Henry S. Tanner, of the town of Claverack and attempting to sell it to Jacob Goldstein of Hudson.

District Attorney Chase then moved the discharge of Francisco Papa and William Daley, the complaints having been dismissed by the grand jury and the defendants having been in custody.

The district attorney then moved that the bond of the defendant in the case of the People vs. Edward Hay, charged with assault in the second degree, be cancelled on record as the complaint was also dismissed by the grand jury.

District Attorney Chase filed with the court the papers in the case of an alleged violation of the liquor tax law in the town of Aparam as no indictment had been found.

In the case of Bartholomew vs. Martin, the jury rendered a verdict of \$156 for plaintiff.

In the case of Milton S. Hall as receiver, against Edward Decker, the judge took the case from the jury and gave both sides 14 days in which to submit briefs.

The case of Mary M. Hatch vs. Julia Shufelt for trespass is on trial to day.

The criminal business of the term was completed Tuesday when Charles Eighmy, charged with burglary in the third degree, was arraigned for sentence. He is the boy charged with stealing the farmer's cow. Eighmy pleaded guilty and after an eloquent plea for mercy by his counsel, W. Avedis Hall, he was sentenced to Elmira Reformatory.

WEATHER REPORTS.

Weather Bureau to Use Telephone Distribution for Forecasts to Farmers.

Forecaster Todd, of Albany, informs the Albany Argus that the United States weather bureau is making preparations to institute a system whereby all the residents of rural districts throughout the state will be supplied with the daily weather reports by means of the telephone communication. Such a system is now successfully operated in Ohio and other States. That the rural communities of this state will also receive such service is indicated by the fact that Willis S. Moore, chief of the United States weather bureau at Washington, the first of this month wrote Forecaster Todd for a list of all the telephone companies operating in this state. Mr. Todd applied at the office of the secretary of State for the desired list and was referred to the comptroller's office, which is now engaged in compiling the information. When it has been forwarded to Washington definite steps will undoubtedly be taken for perfecting the system.

By the plan as outlined by Mr. Todd, and as followed in other states, the daily weather reports will be placed in the hands of the chief operators of the telephone exchanges throughout the state, and from the central offices distributed to such subscribers as shall have expressed their desire for such forecasts. Special effort will be made to distribute the reports to rural stations. In some sections of the country the telephone exchanges in the outlying towns daily call up their rural subscribers and give the day's weather report and forecast.

POUGHKEEPSIE FIRE.

The Electric Railway Plant Burned and 22 Cars Destroyed.

About midnight, Saturday, fire broke out in the power house of the Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls Railway Company on upper Main street, Poughkeepsie, and burned so rapidly that the entire building was destroyed in about one hour. The fire started in the engine room, the cause of the loss will reach in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. There were twenty-two cars burned and a great deal of valuable gear gotten out of the building or the adjoining buildings. Manager H. Beckley states that the loss was total excepting one car.

School Matters

Notes of Interest to Trustees and Teachers.

The Flag Must be Displayed—The Compulsory School Law.—Trustees will Receive Department Reports Soon.

Friday, May 11th, will be Arbor Day this year.

North Chatham has voted to have a new school building on a new site to cost \$3,925.

Commissioners Saunders and Darrow will meet at the Court House in Hudson on March 20th, to appoint the school moneys.

Uniform Teachers' Examinations will be held at Chatham High School building Wednesday and Thursday, April 11 and 12.

The first week of April will be "vacation" week in all district schools in this commissioner district on account of the institute at Chatham.

Senator Barnes has introduced a bill increasing the amount of state aid granted to school districts from \$150 to \$200 a year in districts valued at \$10,000 or under and from \$25 to \$150 in others.

Jordan Clapper, truant officer in school district No. 3, town of Kinderhook, has been given authority over this town's portion of an adjoining district, part of which lies in the town of Chatham.

The grade examinations (grades 1-6) for the rural schools will be given Tuesday and Wednesday, June 12-13. Examinations for grades 4 and 8 have been discontinued. Eighth grade pupils may take the Regents examinations.

Commissioner Saunders of the 1st district will conduct teachers' uniform examinations Wednesday and Thursday, April 11-12, at the school house at Copeke Iron Works. The April examinations will be the last at which candidates may try for second grade certificates.

The monthly attendance reports which are made out by every district school teacher, must be signed by the trustee and mailed to the School Commissioner not later than the 4th of each month. These reports are forwarded to the State Department of Education for examination and filing.

The Teachers' Institute for the Second Commissioner district will be held at Chatham April 2-6. The conductor in charge will be Dr. Charles A. Shaver of Albany with Miss Collier as assistant. It is also expected that Dr. Hawkies of Plattsburgh Normal will be one of the instructors.

A bill has been introduced by Assemblyman Hammond, amending the consolidated school law by adding a new section, making it a misdemeanor for any representative of a firm or corporation selling books or stationery, to represent falsely to a school board or to a teacher that he is a representative of the commissioner of education or any school officer.

According to law, every district must be provided with a flag and a suitable staff for its display during school hours every day. A provision, however, states that in event of stormy weather the flag must be "placed conspicuously" in the principal school room. This in brief means that the Stars and Stripes must receive proper attention daily and its display is the first duty of the morning.

Dr. Geo. K. Romero of Stuyvesant does not confine all his professional visits to his patients. He is president of the board of trustees and every few days finds him looking in on the work of the school. Last accounts barely for the well equipped educational institution, employing three teachers, in that river town. The school trustees

should be a frequent and interested visitor in every district school.

Trustees will soon receive through their respective clerks in the Second Commissioner District the First Annual Report of the State Department in two volumes of 500 or more pages each. These contain valuable information for school officers and teachers and should become a part of the permanent records of the school district. Each trustee will be required to sign a receipt when the books are delivered, which is to be returned to the commissioner and forwarded to the State Department.

Every child between 8 and 14 years of age must be physically and mentally conditioned as required to be in school. It is unlawful for any person to employ any child under 14 years of age during any part of the term of school. It is unlawful to employ any child between 14 and 16 years unless the child has a certificate signed by the teacher, certifying that during the past 12 months he or she attended school for not less than 130 days. This should make clear the duty of every parent respecting their right to keep a child home, from school to work.

As the compulsory education law becomes better known the wisdom of its enactment is seen. Every child is entitled to a common school education and if the parent does not see the need of it, the State does, hence the law.

A new rule by the Examination Division makes it necessary to send both the reports of the standings in Regents' examinations with the papers. After the papers are examined in Albany the Department's rating is placed on these reports and one copy returned to the school. It is a very difficult matter to look through the various reports at present and find the standings of pupils who took the Regents' examination in January. Unless there is some very urgent reason teachers and pupils should not send the high school where examinations were taken for standings until May 1st. At that time the Department promises to have a copy with the corrected standings returned to the school.

CHANGE OF SIGNALS.

B. & A. will Substitute Green for White Lights.

Reports from Boston say that the operating department of the New York Central lines has decided to do away with the white light as a safety signal on the Boston and Albany division, and to put a green light in its place. This is to be done to obviate the confusion which often arises because of the similarity of the signal lights on the switches to the lights in the stations or on the streets beside the tracks.

As the switch and other signal lights are arranged a red light is presented in the case of a blocked track, and a white one when the track is clear. Beside the confusion referred to above this system occasionally leads to difficulties on account of the breaking of a glass.

With the red glass in a signal light broken, the engineer of an approaching train sees a white light, and is left to judge thereby that the track is clear. With a green glass in the other face of the lamp, a white light exposed at any time would lead him to stop and make an investigation, with the purpose of finding out just which color should be presented.

GEN. WALES RESIGNS.

Assistant Superintendent of the B. & A. to Retire on June 1.

General Nathaniel Wales, assistant superintendent of the Boston and Albany division of the New York Central road, has resigned his position, the resignation to take effect on June 1. General Wales will at that time retire from active life, and soon after that date will remove to his native city, Boston, where he was prominent for a number of years. At one time being police commissioner, General Wales has been connected with the Boston and Albany railroad since 1887, and since May, 1904, has been located in Springfield, Mass.