

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

OF

SAN JOSE GRANGE, NO. 10,

1873--1878 /

Calif.

630.6029

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In an interview on February 8, 1961, George Sehlmeier, for thirty years Master of the California State Grange, told me, "The early history of the Grange reads like a dime novel." As I read through the early records of San Jose Grange, No. 10, of the State of California, I found he was right. These records reveal a very vigorous protest movement of farmers who stood together against the city, the capitalists, and the monopolists.

The Grange is an organization of farmers and those interested in agricultural pursuits, which dates back to the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. In 1866, Oliver Hudson Kelley, a clerk for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. was sent on a tour of the South, to survey agricultural conditions. He was a Minnesota farmer and a student of agriculture who had written many articles for farm papers and for the Department of Agriculture. In his tour of the South, he was suspect as a representative of the North, but found that his membership in the Masonic lodge was a key to many doors. He began to dream of a fraternal order of farmers which would bind together the entire Nation's farmers in like manner, and in so doing, help heal the wounds left by the Civil War.¹

Kelley and six of his friends founded the order, The Patrons of Husbandry, on December 14, 1867, which date is still celebrated as the

¹Charles M. Gardner, The Grange--Friend of the Farmer; 1867-1947 (Washington, D. C.: The National Grange, 1949.), p. 20-23.

"Birthday of the Grange." They chose for a motto, "Esto Perpetua," Let it be perpetual.² The name "Grange" was chosen to designate the many local units that are the basis of the Grange today, although it has become the familiar title for the entire organization. The word was derived from England, where it meant an old estate, and has been traced back to the Latin "granum," which meant grain. It is an apt word, indeed.³

The aim of the order was to protect the farmer as a class in American society, to educate the members in the art and science of agriculture, to create a social medium for the rural population, to dissipate the sectional differences between North and South, and to foster cooperation in all things for their mutual improvement.⁴ They were the first fraternal organization to admit women on an equal basis, proving, as in many other items which I shall enumerate, that they were leaders in the social movement of our country, as well as in its political reforms.

Before long, the Grange had spread from coast to coast. It came to California in 1871. W. H. Baxter of Napa City read of it and became interested. He corresponded with the Secretary of the National Grange and was appointed the Deputy for the State of California. His job was to publicize the advantages of the fraternity to interested parties.⁵

²Gardner, p. 29.

³Gardner, p. 253

⁴Edward Wiest, Agricultural Organization in the United States (Lexington: University of Kentucky, April, 1923), p. 365.

⁵E. S. Carr, Patrons of Husbandry on the Pacific Coast (San Francisco: A. L. Bancroft & Co., 1875), p. 91

A representation of farmers of California had united into a State Farmers' Union at the 1872 State Fair in Sacramento in order to promote agricultural and industrial interests of the state. They had elected officers and a board of directors. The president was John Bidwell of Chico, and the secretary, I. N. Hoag. They met in San Francisco on April 10, 1873, in order to better organize themselves and to discuss legislation pertinent to their interests.⁶

On the second day of their convention, a committee which had been appointed to investigate the Patrons of Husbandry, submitted a report. They recommended an alliance with the order because it offered a medium for establishing and maintaining a better state of social and confidential relations between the farmers and because it was secret, allowing the business transacted in the meetings to remain there. The unprecedented success of the Grange was also a factor in their decision. Mr. Barter, the Deputy for the National Grange, was invited to address the convention on the objects of the order, after which the resolutions presented were adopted by the assembled farmers.⁷ Three months later, representatives from twenty-four California counties met at Napa City. The California State Grange was formed on July 15, 1873.⁸

San Jose Grange, Number 10, was also organized by Deputy W. E. Barter of Napa City. He met with the charter members on May 13, 1873, two months

⁶Daily Alta California, April 10, 1873, 3 & 4.

⁷Daily Alta California, April 11, 1873, p. 1, col. 3.

⁸Carr, p. 131.

before the State Grange was founded. Before the year was over, the subordinate granges in California numbered ninety-one. (The peak year was 1875, when there were two hundred sixty-three. After that time, they began to decline in strength.)⁹

The meeting was called to order at forty minutes past ten a.m. on Saturday, May 13, 1873, at the Masonic Hall, Pomeroy's Building on First Street, San Jose. Deputy W. H. Baxter opened with a few remarks announcing the objects of the order, its broad principles and constitutional restrictions. He also explained the first steps necessary to effect an organization; then he performed the ceremonies necessary to organize the San Jose Grange, Number 10, officially.

The charter members included these gentlemen: M. W. Drinkwater, James McClellan, S. F. Ayer, J. W. Haskell, Charles G. Thomas, Joseph R. Holland, J. M. Battee, James Singleton, B. F. Watkins, H. S. MacLay, Hiram Pomeroy, A. J. Fowler, Lemuel F. Chipman, Marshall Pomeroy, Edmond Ladd, C. T. Settle, S. H. Herring, Caleb Cadwell, Oliver Cottle, and David Campbell. The ladies included H. C. Paine, E. M. Settle, C. A. Ladd, (Miss) S. J. Watkins, P. A. Singleton, Stella Cottle, L. J. Watkins, Harriet Pomeroy, and Harriet Cadwell.

The occupations of the men were more varied than I expected. There were two listed as orchardists at the Willows, several farmers who owned

⁹Solon Justus Buck, Ph. D. The Granger Movement: A Study of Agricultural Organization and Its Political, Economic and Social Manifestations; 1870-1880. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1913), p. 56.

¹⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10. Book I, 1873-1874. Minutes. (Santa Clara County, California), p. 1.

from 160-300 acres each, a Chief Deputy Sheriff, the Superintendent of San Jose City Schools, a carpenter, the owner of a carriage factory who also owned one hundred fifty acres of land at Milpitas, and a judge.¹¹

The officers nominated and elected were:

Worthy Master - Oliver Cottle
 Worthy Lecturer - J. W. Haskell
 Worthy Overseer - L. F. Chipman
 Worthy Chaplain - Jas. R. Holland
 Worthy Steward - H. M. MacLay
 Gate Keeper - C. T. Settle
 Secretary - S. H. Herring
 Treasurer - G. M. Battee
 Lady Assistant Steward - Miss Watkins
 Ceres - Mrs. Watkins
 Pomona - Mrs. Singleton
 Flora - Mrs. Settle
 Assistant Steward - M. W. Drinkwater¹²

"The officers were seated and duly instructed in their duties." The degrees of Laborer and Maid were conferred by Deputy Baxter before noon, when the Grange adjourned for an hour. The afternoon session was called to order by Master Oliver Cottle. Deputy Baxter conferred the Second, Third, and Fourth Degrees on the members and gave the officers instructions as to their duties in the ceremonies of conferring degrees on new members. The name was officially adopted and the secretary instructed to draw an order on the treasury for \$43, the amount due Deputy Baxter for the time and expense incurred in the organization of the Grange.¹³ Committees

¹¹History of Santa Clara County, California; Illustrated (San Francisco: Alley, Bowen & Co., Publishers, 1881), pp. 640-743.

¹²San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 2.

¹³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 2.

appointed in the course of organization included the Room Committee, the By-Law Committee, and the Music Committee. Receipts of the first meeting were \$63.¹⁴

The next meeting, on May 31, was also organizational. The Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Membership Committee were elected. It was ruled that all applications for membership must be accompanied by the initiation fees, which were \$5 for men and \$2 for ladies. The quarterly dues for the members were set at 75¢.¹⁵ It was decided to have the meetings every two weeks in the Masonic Hall, which could be had for \$10 a month with no extra charge for more frequent meetings.¹⁶

The ritualistic symbols and regalia needed for the enactment of the degrees included a set of jewels, a seal, a dozen manuals, symbols of farming for the Master's lecture, and five dozen regalia for the members. The total amount spent for these items was nearly \$125.¹⁷

The procedure of the Saturday meetings was for the opening exercises to commence at ten a.m. in the Masonic hall. This morning session was devoted to the presentation of the many applications of those seeking membership by their sponsors, in the first place, and by the investigating committees on succeeding Saturdays. After these reports of the candidates, the balloting would take place, with three black balls necessary for a

¹⁴San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 2, 3.

¹⁵San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 6.

¹⁶San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 7.

¹⁷San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 11-18.

refusal. Initiations of these candidates would take place on the next Saturday, following election.

Promptly at noon, the entire Grange would adjourn "to partake of the Bountiful Harvest Feast," as Secretary Jettora Watkins recorded,¹⁸ or in the words of Secretary R. Fisk at a later date, "Lunch all were now notified (sic) to the lunch room immediately after adjournment and partake of the Viands which our sisters know so well how to prepare and the Brothers so well how to relish. . ."¹⁹ The meeting would reconvene promptly at 1½ (sic) in the Fourth Degree to transact all business.²⁰ Only members who had taken the first four degrees were eligible to sit in on the business meeting.

The investigations of the candidates were quite thorough, especially as to moral character. More than one applicant was rejected on this charge. The petition of J. J. Owen, who was editor and manager of the San Jose Mercury at the time,²¹ was reported on and rejected a week following its submission. Six weeks later, the grange appointed a committee to find out how the news of the black balling of this candidate had reached the public's ears. Three weeks after this time, they reported that Brother Cadwell and Sister Henning's conversation in the outside ante room had been

¹⁸San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 22.

¹⁹San Jose Grange, Number 10. Book II, 1875-1878. Minutes. Santa Clara County, California, p. 62.

²⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 22.

²¹[Folk] Directory of the City of San Jose, for 1878. (San Jose: Cottle & Wright, Printers, 1878), p. 278.

overheard by persons not members. These persons had disseminated the knowledge around town. Owen was then reported on favorably, but he had already become a charter member of the Santa Clara Grange in the intervening two months.²²

The By-Laws said that the meetings should be held on alternate Saturdays, with thirteen members needed for the transaction of business. Officers should be elected in October and installed in January, with the elections all by ballot and a majority necessary for election. It enumerated the specific duties of each officer, and designated twenty-five cents per month, payable quarterly, as dues, for each active member. All business transactions were to be guarded by "Cushings' Manual (sic).²³

The first Worthy Master, Oliver Cottle, resigned on July 5, 1873, and was replaced by George W. Henning, the editor of the periodical, California Agriculturist.²⁴ The secretary, S. H. Herring, also resigned and was replaced by Miss Jettora Watkins, who filled the post until November 1, 1874, when she left the area.

The most important and exciting event in 1873, after the organization of the Grange, was the First Annual State Grange meeting, held in San Jose, October 14, 1873. In preparation, a committee on arrangements was appointed to find out what were the best and cheapest means of entertaining the State Grange, as well as housing them. The Grangers, themselves, were able to

²²San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 18-36.

²³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 2-21.

²⁴Polk, p. 149.

house many. It was reported that the Anzerais House, between Market and First on Santa Clara Street, could accommodate thirty to fifty at three dollars per day, and the New York Exchange on First Street, between Santa Clara and St. John, fifty at a dollar and a half per day. A reception committee of five members was appointed to receive the members of the State Grange upon their arrival.

A room committee was instructed to find a room for the use of the convention and to make preparation for the address by Governor Booth. They were able to get Brchaska's Opera House between Second and Third Streets on Santa Clara for twenty-eight dollars, including the use of the piano and the janitor.²⁵

Governor Booth's speech lauded the farmer's movement as seen in the Grange, and condemned the big city interests, Wall Street, tariffs, the government land policy, and the water monopolies in California. He lauded the Granger interest in all levels of government, and commended them on their interest in the schools. His comments on the changing of the farm with industrialization tied it in with the world market of wheat. The need for large amounts of capital for these kinds of agricultural pursuits left farmers at the mercy of large banking interests. He ended with comments on the feeling of esprit du corps which characterises the Grangers in their pride of pursuit and in their mutual pledges.²⁶

²⁵San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 37-47

²⁶Lauren E. Crane, Newton Booth of California: His Speeches and Addresses (New York: A. P. Putnam's Sons, 1894), pp. 96-107.

The Daily Alta California reported that the delegates and their friends packed the Opera House to hear the Governor's speech. They applauded warmly at various intervals, and continued the meeting so late that the reporter was unable to send his report through by telegraph in time for the press of the following day.²⁷

One hundred and four California granges were in attendance at this five-day meeting. They represented a membership of 3,168. The visiting Master of Oregon State, Daniel Clark, represented sixty-five more granges in Washington and Oregon.²⁸ These representatives heard reports on the subjects of transportation, legislation, irrigation, schools, the agricultural college, and other items under the heading of "Good of the Order."²⁹ All of these items were of continuing interest to the farmers. They had been on the agenda for the convention of the predecessor of the Grange, the State Farmer's Union in San Francisco on April 10 and 11, 1873.³⁰ The same problems have often been discussed in the annual meetings of the State Grange, even to current times.

Other items on the program for the Annual Meeting included a song by a quartet with the audience joining in on the chorus and a rendition by a choir of "Rally Round the Grange" to the air of "Rally Round the Flag."³¹

²⁷Daily Alta California, October 18, 1873, p. 1, Col. 5.

²⁸First Annual Meeting of the California State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, at San Jose, Commencing October 14, 1873. Official Report to Members of the Order (San Francisco: Pacific Rural Press, 1873), p. 5.

²⁹First Annual Meeting of the California State Grange, p. 5

³⁰Daily Alta California, April 10 and 11, 1873, page 1.

³¹Daily Alta California, October 18, 1873, p. 1.

The meetings of San Jose Grange as well as all other granges was made more enjoyable by the liberal use of music. On November 8, 1873, Mrs. Holloway was offered a small sum as an inducement to furnish the Grange with music regularly.³² The music committee was instructed to inquire into the cost of an organ to be used as an aid in the singing at the meetings. They reported on January 3, 1874, that the instrument that was now in use could be bought for seventy-five dollars, or a superior new one for one hundred twenty-five dollars. However, they were instructed to find one for fifty dollars. They bought an organ from the Trinity Episcopal Congregation on January 10, 1874 for the fifty dollars.³³ Many references are given to the purchasing of songbooks for use in the meetings. In April of 1874, the secretary was given five dollars to buy one dozen songbooks entitled, The Trumpet of Reform.³⁴ On January 2, 1875, Sister Harring suggested that all who could play or sing could come to her house for practice so that the Grange meetings might be more lively.³⁵

The active members were often concerned with the entertainment features of the meetings. On August 29, 1874, the Entertainment Committee reported:

that they deem the cultivation of the social and intellectual faculties of its members an essential part of the purpose

³²San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 61.

³³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 79-85.

³⁴San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 145.

³⁵San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 1.

of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry and in order to carry out this purpose a portion of our time should be set apart, at each meeting, sacred from the infringement of business. . .

The program for the following week was listed as, essayist--Mrs. Watkins, music--Sister Jorri Settle; department for debate--Worthy Master Erikson and Sister Paine, question for debate--"Resolved--That co-education of the sexes is inexpedient and unwise--Affirmative of the question to be supported by our Worthy Master and the Negative by Sister Paine."³⁶

The committee again reported that in order to make the meetings more interesting and useful,

that thinking, talking and writing on useful and interesting subjects would amuse and interest as well as cultivate the faculties of thinking, speaking and writing and by the interchange of thoughts, opinions, and observations enlarge our general stock of useful information. We would therefore recommend that at each Grange meeting a subject for consideration at a subsequent meeting giving time for members to prepare a written essay on the proposed question. After the reading of which oral debate on the question will be in order. When the arguments and conclusions of the written essays may be reviewed and controverted (sic) but--no captious criticisms on their style or literary character should be permitted. The range of subjects should be limited to farming. The interests of farmers, the purposes of the Grange organization as defined by the National Grange, and the Good-of-the-order."³⁷

On February 12, 1876, Sister Paine read an interesting article, "Stand out of my Sunshine" and the Worthy Lecturer read a speech by Carl Schurz on Inflation.³⁸ On July 22, 1876, the select reading was "Columbia Welcoming the Nations," a centennial poem. Another discussion question

³⁶San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 179-180.

³⁷San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 5.

³⁸San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 118.

was, "Resolved, that it is more profitable to raise meat on our valley farms than grain for the market," with the disputants, Rufus Fisk and Oliver Cottle. It was so interesting to the Grange that they decided to continue the discussion the following week.³⁹ Other questions discussed included the different processes of drying fruits, irrigation, thoughts for legislation to protect water rights from monopolies, and the silver question.⁴⁰

A monthly paper written and published by the members of San Jose Grange, No. 10, was instituted in April, 1875. Brother Haskell, the first editor, called it The Granger Tribune.⁴¹ News-sheets were quite popular at this time, with the State Grange sponsoring The California Patron and the town of San Jose supporting five separate newspapers.

Each year the San Jose Grange celebrated its organization in May with a birthday picnic. The other Granges in the county were invited to participate and the state officers, also. In 1878, the picnic was held on the fourteenth of May because the State Lecturer, Blakely Pilkington, from Santa Cruz, and the State Master, I. C. Steele, from Pescadero, were to visit on that date. Santa Clara Grange was invited to join in receiving these dignitaries. Although the membership had dropped from the peak of three hundred in 1875, there were still over one hundred and fifty members, enough to have a good celebration.

³⁹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 13.

⁴⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 60 & 248.

⁴¹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 31 & 44.

⁴²San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 264.

The charges for the grove for the picnic, the music, gatekeeper, hot water and printing totalled fifty-six dollars. The receipts enumerated were evidently from concessionaires, including S. A. Bishop, the Dumb Horse Man, and the air gun. The rest of the expenses were collected from the Grangers.⁴³ The previous year, the picnic had been enlivened by the music from Daggetts' Brass and String Band.⁴⁴

Much was said on the subject of the payment of dues from the first meeting to the last. By 1875 and 1876 Grangers in California began to feel the pinch of the depression which had stricken the Eastern United States in 1873. Those people who joined the order because it was the thing to do, were dropping out, as well as those who could not afford to pay the dues. However, the finance committee reported in 1874 that their receipts were \$1,160.89. After disbursements, there remained \$4.76 in the treasury.⁴⁵ Members expelled for nonpayment of dues numbered forty-five in 1876, twenty-six in 1877, and twenty-five in 1878. Death claimed two members and demits were issued to fifty-three. By October 19, 1878, the Quarterly Report listed a membership of one hundred fifty-six.⁴⁷

In one instance, the expulsion of a member had drastic results. On December 22, 1877, the names of ten members, six months in arrears, were read. It was moved and seconded that they should be expelled from the

⁴³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 264.

⁴⁴San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 136.

⁴⁵San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 26.

⁴⁶San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 273-277.

⁴⁷San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 264.

Grange. The Worthy Lecturer, Sister E. P. Bicknell made an earnest appeal for Sister Tentillott, whose name was then stricken from the list.

At that moment, Sister Bicknell. . .fainted in her chair and was borne from the room. The Grange was open under the Good of the Order when it was announced that Sister Bicknell was dying, whereupon a recess was ordered. It was soon announced that Sister Bicknell had breathed her last and the Grange was called to order. On motion the following committees were appointed to take charge of the interment (sic) under the grange funeral ceremony of our diseased (sic) sister.

On general arrangements	Brother and Sister Little Brother Settle and Sisters McClay and Herman
On Resolutions	Josie Settle Mrs. W. L. Manly Mrs. H. S. McClay Wm. Erikson and H. G. Keesling
Marshall--E. A. Braly	
Guard of Honor	Brothers Keesling, Gilmore and Powell Sisters Settle, Powell and Farnsworth. ⁴⁸

The committee was instructed to print funeral notices, a copy of which is enclosed. Printed on the front of the folded sheet, edged in black, was this notice:

FUNERAL NOTICE; P. OF. H.; Officers and Members of San Jose Grange, Patrons of Husbandry are hereby requested to attend the Funeral of our late sister, Mrs. E. P. Bicknell, Sunday, December 23rd, 1877, at 12 o'clock from the Grange Hall, on First Street. All members of the order and friends of the deceased are invited to attend.

CYRUS JONES, W. M.
H. G. KEESLING, Sec'y.⁴⁹

Written inside the copy of the notice pasted in the minute book was this note in long hand:

⁴⁸San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 241.

⁴⁹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 242.

In accordance with this notice a large number of Brothers and Sisters of the Order assembled at the hall at twelve o'clock wearing their sashes and black and white ribbons on their left arms. The funeral sermon was delivered by Mr. Hur of the M. E. Church. The Grange ceremony at the grave in Oak Hill Cemetery was beautifully rendered by Wm. Erickson, W. M., and Mrs. H. C. Faine, W. Chaplain.⁵⁰

An obituary was written and published in the paper, a copy of which was also pasted in the Minute-Book.

IN MEMORIAM

SAN JOSE GRANGE, Santa Clara County, December 28th, 1877
WHEREAS, It has pleased the Great Master above to remove from our Grange circle our beloved and worthy Lecturer, Sister E. P. Bicknell the rest from her earthly labors, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That in the death of Sister Bicknell the bereaved family lose a kind and loving wife and mother, the community a valuable and esteemed friend, and this Grange one of its most active and trustworthy members--prompt and faithful in her duties, cheerful and courteous in her intercourse--leaving a blank in our broken columns difficult to fill.

RESOLVED, That we extend to the family of our deceased Sister our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.

RESOLVED, That our charter be draped in mourning; that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Grange, and a copy sent to the San Jose Mercury and to the Rural Press for publication.⁵¹

During its first five years, this Grange had nine Masters. A look at the biographies of these men has revealed that they were extraordinary men, dedicated to their families, their work, and the betterment of society.

The first one was Oliver Cottle, elected during the organization in 1873. He was an orchardist in the district known as Willows.⁵² He resigned on July 5, 1873, before the first year was out, and was replaced by G. W. Henning on the next meeting date. George Henning was the

⁵⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 242.

⁵¹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 262.

⁵²Polk, p. 109.

proprietor of the periodical, California Granger,⁵³ which was published on First Street, San Jose.

Ianuel F. Chipman was elected Master for the year 1874, but resigned because of ill health on April 25, 1874. He was a native Californian who had come to San Jose in 1864. He graduated from the State Normal School in 1873 and was employed in the Evergreen School the same year. In 1874, he was made Superintendent of Schools in the City of San Jose, which post he held until his acceptance of the post of County Superintendent of Schools in 1878.⁵⁴

The Fourth Master, who took over from Brother Chipman on May 2, 1874, was William Erkson. He had come to Sacramento in 1852 from his native New York, and to the Alviso township in 1857, where he purchased two hundred acres of the Alviso Rancho. In 1874, he moved to San Jose, as he was elected President of the Farmer's Union. He took charge of the store of the Farmer's Union until his resignation in 1878.⁵⁵ Mr. Erkson served as Master of this Grange until October 23, 1875, when he was replaced by J. L. V. Webster, on whom I have found no information.

C. T. Settle, another orchardist from the Willows district⁵⁶ served as Master from December 4, 1875 to January 13, 1877, when he was replaced by Cyrus Jones. Brother Jones had come to Santa Barbara in 1872 from Ohio.

⁵³John B. Hewson, Directory of the City of San Jose, (San Jose: Bacon & Co., Steam Book and Job Printers, San Francisco, 1874), p. 69.

⁵⁴History of Santa Clara County, California, p. 695.

⁵⁵History of Santa Clara County, California, p. 758.

⁵⁶Polk, p. 223.

He moved to the San Jose area in April, 1873, when he and Gen. Giles A. Smith bought the 616 acre Avenue Ranch. Brother Jones raised thoroughbred Short Horn Durham Cattle for a pastime. He was also the President of the State Cattle Breeder's Association in San Francisco, from 1874 to 1881, and was elected Director of the State Board of Agriculture from 1878 to 1880. He was active in the Republican Party and was elected to the State Assembly in 1875.⁵⁷ His family still resides in this area; his grand-daughter is one of the history professors at San Jose State College. As the first five-year period closed, one of the former Masters, C. T. Settle was again in the chair.

The Grangers believed in taking care of their own whether in sickness, death, disputes, or other need. A committee was appointed to investigate the affair between Worthy Master Henning and Brother Herring on September 20, 1873. The complaint as filed by Brother Herring was that Brother Henning, a partner in the California Agriculturist, had written a political editorial on August 23, 1873 and published it on the front page of his paper. He charged that Brother Henning had received money for editorial articles on political subjects and in favor of certain aspirants for office, which made the paper a subsidized sheet and a prostitute to partisan politics. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter and they submitted this report:

Your committee are of the opinion that the charges are not well founded, and that however probable they may have appeared to Brother Herring, are wholly unsupported by the testimony.

⁵⁷History of Santa Clara County, California, p. 715

It is true there are circumstances calculated to raise a presumption of the worth of the allegation (sic) and doubtless Brother Herring believed them to be true--but in our opinion the publication was indiscreet--and in the aims quite as objectionable as in the matter which if here (though we do not think it is) would involve only a mild type of Moral turpitude compared with the average Morality of the conduction of the Newspaper (sic) Press, but the spirit is unbrotherly and in conflict with the precepts of our order.⁵⁸

A copy of this report was published in the three San Jose weeklies to clarify the matter to the public at large.⁵⁹

One of the most active committees was the Relief Committee. This committee worked with the members of this Grange and with members of other granges that were in need of assistance. On July 11, 1874, a communication was received from the New Orleans Relief Committee asking for aid from the Grangers for the Louisiana sufferers. The Grange appropriated \$100 of its funds. The hat was passed, collecting \$26.55 more from the members, which was also sent to New Orleans.⁶⁰

A committee of five was appointed to solicit contributions for the Kansas and Nebraska sufferers in April, 1875. A direct communication was received from Mt. Vernon Grange, Jefferson County, Nebraska, asking for help because of the ravages of grasshoppers. The committee collected \$69 the first Saturday and forwarded it through F. C. Gardiner of San Francisco to be sent either in the form of money or grain, at his option.⁶¹ The amount of \$77.50 was collected the following week and forwarded directly to Mt. Vernon Grange to be used as needed.⁶²

⁵⁸San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 43-44.

⁵⁹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 46.

⁶⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 158.

⁶¹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 33.

⁶²San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 40

Many instances of visitations to the sick and/or offers of financial help were recorded. I am certain, knowing this age and the kind of people who are Grangers, that the ladies brought food and did whatever chores were necessary to help out when any of their members were in need of assistance, making the need for pure financial assistance less.

A notation in the records dated April 15, 1876 said that Brother William Davy, a member of Monterey Grange, Wisconsin, was sick. The Relief Committee was to visit him. Meanwhile, a letter was sent to that Grange inquiring why he had no help from them.⁶³ An answer was received from Monterey Grange on May 20, nearly a month later. The minutes state that it was filed and that Brother Davy was advised to apply to the county for aid. Periodical reports were given on the health of Brother Davy. On July 22, he was reported still low and Brother Cadwell said that he would collect more money in his behalf during the Harvest Feast.⁶⁴

The Worthy Master announced the death of Brother Davy at the next meeting, on July 29, 1876. Arrangements were made for his burial and it was decided to omit the Grange funeral ceremony. All were invited to attend. Bills covering the last days and the burial of Brother Davy included:

From Easterday & Company--Coffin & Box	\$25.00
Handles	5.00
Hearse	10.00
	<u>40.00</u>

⁶³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book IX, p. 143.

⁶⁴San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book IX, p. 166.

From E. Richardson for six days watching with Wm. Davy	\$ 9.00
From D. Trager for 15 days watching	15.00
Cemetery lot	2.50
Deed	1.00
Preparing Grave	5.00
	<u>\$71.00</u> ⁶⁵

These bills for the funeral and other expenses were forwarded to Mt. Vernon Grange on August 26 and an answer received from them by return mail, on September 30, 1876. They declined to pay the bill and returned same.⁶⁶

This social welfare concept as shown by the Grange in their dealings with individuals was carried over into the broader fields of alliances with other groups and with legislation. One of their basic ideas was the joining together of like people for strength in dealing with others. One of the earliest resolutions concerning alliances with other groups was this one of June 13, 1874:

Resolutions received from Napa County Council as follows;
Resolved; that the different Granges in the State, interested in Fruit Growing, be requested to send one or more Delegates to meet with the State Executive Committee in Convention, to be held at San Francisco, Thursday, June 18th, 1874, at the office of the State Agency, 320 California Street, for the purpose of forming a Fruit Growers Association.

Per Order
H. H. Haskell
Secretary Napa District Council

⁶⁵San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, PP. 171, 173.

⁶⁶San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 187.

Three delegates were sent, for many of the members were fruit growers, and reports of this alliance were given at the meetings.⁶⁷

Another concern was an alliance with other Granges in the county.

For some time, there had been a movement to organize a County or Pomona Grange instead of the Santa Clara County Council, to which this Grange sent eighteen delegates.⁶⁸ The Worthy Master was requested to invite the Masters of the other Granges to cooperate in establishing a Pomona Grange on March 11, 1876.⁶⁹ Joint meetings were held, but the report on September 23, 1876, was that the Committee on Pomona was not in favor of organizing at that time.⁷⁰ (The Santa Clara County Pomona was finally established October 1, 1904.⁷¹)

The Grange also cooperated with the National office in Washington, D. C. In 1874, the National office attempted to collect and tabulate crop reports, making the information available through the agricultural press to farmers, who were thus able to plan their farm operations more wisely. This proved too costly for the National Grange, who paid all of the expenses, so it was soon dropped. However, a similar plan is now in operation by our Department of Agriculture.⁷²

⁶⁷San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 148.

⁶⁸San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 21, 57, 115.

⁶⁹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 129.

⁷⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 183.

⁷¹Roster of the State, Pomona, Subordinate and Juvenile Granges of California, 1960 (Sacramento, Calif.: California State Grange), p. 15.

⁷²Gardner, p. 141.

A communication from Washington asking for crop reports was received April 4, 1874, and the members appointed to canvass the various areas were fourteen in number:

Calaveras...Brother Pomeroy	Laguna.....Brother Canbell (sic)
Berryessa...Brother Ables	Midway.....Brother Ogur
Evergreen...Brother Macley	Oak Grove.....Brother Snell
Yara.....Brother Hostetter	River District...Brother Dudley
Franklin....Brother Wanby	Pala.....Brother Ladd
Island.....Brother Auther	Silver Creek....Brother Singleton
Jackson.....Brother William	Milpitas.....Brother Weller ⁷³

Granges all over the United States began to use the cooperative methods which had been so successful in Rochdale, England and in other places, to help themselves in their buying and selling ventures. A predecessor of a true co-op in California was the establishment of E. E. Morgan's Sons as shipping agents for the Grangers between New York and Liverpool, where the market for their grain was. California was a great grain-growing area in the seventies. The crop of 1873-1874 gave cargoes to 247 ships, valued at \$19,400,000. The crop of 1874-1875 gave cargoes to 413 ships, valued at \$40,000,000.⁷⁴ G. P. Kellogg, of Salinas was elected and bonded as the buying and shipping agent for the California Grangers.⁷⁵ It was estimated that in one year, the Grangers in the State saved \$450,000 on sacks, and \$5 per ton on the shipping price, or \$3,000,000 plus a saving of \$160,000 on agricultural implements, \$160,000 on groceries and general merchandise, \$1,350,000 on grain, to a total of \$5,160,000.⁷⁶

⁷³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 118, 125.

⁷⁴Carr, p. 202.

⁷⁵Carr, p. 159.

⁷⁶Carr, p. 178.

This competition with the "Wheat King," Mr. Friedlander, was very keen--so keen indeed, that Mr. Friedlander unloaded 2,000,000 grain sacks under cost, flooding the market and knocking the bottom out of prices for sacks. After the Grange fleet had loaded at Vallejo, Antioch, Oakland and San Francisco, and set sail for Liverpool, the San Francisco bank, which had supported the advance of \$20 a ton on the cargo of wheat, withdrew its support, causing E. E. Morgan's Sons to go bankrupt.⁷⁷

The San Jose Grange made an assessment of five dollars on every member of the Grange to help those grain shippers who had not received any advances on their wheat through the failure of E. E. Morgan's Sons on February 27, 1875.⁷⁸ This failure hastened the establishment of a Granger's Business Association of San Francisco, whose purpose was given as dealing in and shipping agricultural produce, grain, and other merchandise to and from foreign and domestic ports from San Francisco.⁷⁹

In San Jose, the committee on co-operative union reported January 17, 1874, that a union should be started with one hundred thousand dollars in stock, but they compromised and began operations with fifteen thousand dollars in stock. This Farmer's Union was run by a nine man board of directors. No member was allowed to cast over fifty votes, no matter how much stock he owned, and persons not belonging to the Patrons of Husbandry were

⁷⁷Carr, pp. 201-204.

⁷⁸San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 18.

⁷⁹Carr, pp. 205, 207.

excluded from purchase of stock.⁸⁰ Solon Buck claims that The Farmer's Cooperative Union of San Jose was among the most successful of the cooperative ventures of the grange as a whole. A person holding one share of stock was entitled with his family to all of the privileges of the company, including the purchase of goods as near to cost as possible. The same goods were sold to outsiders at the usual rates.⁸¹ In a letter addressed to State Master I. C. Steele, dated San Jose, September 25, 1878, Brother Settle reported on the Farmer's Union. He stated that the capital stock had increased from \$8,222 on July 15, to \$94,050 in the four year period. They had just paid a dividend of twelve percent, which came to \$11,286. Brother Settle believed that the competition of the Farmer's Union had forced prices down in the surrounding area at least ten percent. All of their business was done on a cash and carry basis, which he estimated had saved the community at least one hundred thousand dollars a year.⁸²

Other ventures in cooperation included the Fire Insurance Company, also organized in 1874. The members eagerly subscribed to this venture, for fire insurance on farm properties was notoriously hard to get in those days. However, by November 20, 1878, it seems to have fallen from favor in the San Jose Grange, as noted in this resolution:

⁸⁰ Journal of Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Session of the California State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, Held at Good Templar's Hall, 1882 (San Francisco: Barry, Baird & Co., Steam Printers, 1882), p. 18.

⁸¹ Solon Justus Buck, p. 264.

⁸² Journal of Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Session of the California State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, Held at Turner Hall, Sacramento, 1878 (San Francisco: Alta California Book and Job Printing House, 1878), p. 13.

Whereas: The Grange was created for the purpose of relieving its members from the unjust burdens created by a mal administration of our political affairs, and from the extortions practiced by monopolies combined for the purpose of obtaining an unjust compensation for services rendered, and

Whereas, various organizations have been formed in the state through the instrumentality of the Grange resulting in great benefit to the producing and consuming classes in consequence of their rigid adherence to the principles of the Order and

Whereas: our self interest compells us to succor and support each organization in preference to others of a similar kind as long as such organizations adhere to the principles adopted at their origin. But when such organizations depart from such principles and instead thereof combine with organized monopolies for the purpose of extortion, they thereby become the enemies of this Order and it becomes our duty to deal with them as such and

Whereas, the Insurance Company now named the California Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association are doing no further business on the mutual plan but one prosecuting business as a joint-stock company and further that said company has entered and become a member of the Board of Insurance of this State thereby becoming a part of a gigantic monopoly whose purpose is to extort unjust remuneration for services which members of this Order are as a means of self protection compelled to accept and

Whereas, said organization by this doing have completely forsaken the principles of their origin and have enrolled themselves in the ranks of those who oppose us therefore be it Resolved--That we the San Jose Grange No. 10 repudiate the California Farmers Mutual Fire Association.⁸³

This lengthy resolution was adopted by the members and a copy sent to

J. G. Gardner, the head of the Insurance Company.⁸⁴

April 4, 1874, two members, Wm. Ekson and J. W. Haskell were elected delegates to the Convention in San Francisco, April 21st, 22d, and 23d, 1874 for the purpose of establishing a Grange Bank.⁸⁵

⁸³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 266-267.

⁸⁴San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 270.

⁸⁵Synopsis of the Proceedings of the Convention Held in San Francisco April 21st, 22d and 23d, 1874: by the Patrons of California, for the Purpose of Establishing a Bank, and System of Incorporations in the State (San Francisco: Spaulding & Barto, Steam Book and Job Printers, 1874), p. 6.

The bank was called, the "Grangers' Bank of California." It was established in the City of San Francisco with a capital stock of five million dollars, divided into fifty thousand shares, at the par value of one hundred dollars each. This stock was limited to members of the Patrons of Husbandry, as was that of the Farmer's Union. The bank was run by an eleven-man Board of Directors, from whose ranks a President and Vice-President were elected. They appointed and hired the other personnel needed to run such an operation.⁸⁶

The plan as set forth by these men was as follows:

To the Patrons of California:

Fully aware of the disadvantages the agriculturalists and farmers throughout the State have heretofore labored under in obtaining money at fair rates of interest for the proper handling of their crops, and for the purpose of improving their farms, and the almost impossibility of obtaining such without an unnecessary sacrifice of a portion of their crops, thus depriving them of their just rewards and paralyzing all efforts in developing the boundless riches of our agricultural resources; therefore, to obviate the above named difficulties, and to establish and create a new and different state of affairs, one that shall afford all the aid and fosterings that organized capital, in full sympathy with the agriculturist, may afford, the "Grangers' Bank of California" is established, and the convention just held for the purpose of maturing the method by which this grand result may be brought about, have, after mature deliberation and careful consideration, decided upon the plan as set forth and explained in the following prospectus, and to be governed as set forth in the By-Laws hereunto annexed.⁸⁷

The members of San Jose Grange participated in the bank, as did a goodly portion of the Grangers in California. It was successful through 1883, but failed soon after.

⁸⁶Granger Bank, pp. 25-27.

⁸⁷Granger Bank, pp. 19-20.

The National and State Granges have been successful over the years in promoting legislation which was needed to further the advancement of agriculture. The Subordinate Granges have been no less active in these matters. They have recorded many and varied interests in the matters pertaining to government, schools and politics.

Since one of the purposes stated in the founding of the Order was the desire for education of the farmers, especially in the matters of their own pursuits, the Granges in the 1870's were extremely interested in land grant colleges. The University of California was a land grant college, therefore the Grangers felt that they had a special interest in its operation. An article from the Livermore Grange was printed on the front page of the Daily Alta on August 5, 1874. This resolution accused the Regents for the University of California of diverting the curriculum of the college from agriculture and mechanics, which was the intention of the federal government in establishing land grant colleges, to such things as Latin and Greek.⁸⁸

A joint meeting of the State Grange and the Mechanics State Council and Mechanics Deliberative Assembly met in San Francisco on August 7, 1874, to draft resolutions of protest against the proposed action by the Regents of the University of California in removing the only professor of Agriculture, Professor Ezra S. Carr, who was very active in the State Granger movement, from his chair at the University. This group claimed complete confidence in the competence of Professor Carr.⁸⁹ The San Jose

⁸⁸ Daily Alta California, August 5, 1874, p. 1.

⁸⁹ Daily Alta California, August 8, 1874, p. 1.

Grange also met on August 8, 1874 to discuss the proposed action of the University Regents. They, too, drew up resolutions of protest and had them printed in the newspaper.

Resolved, by San Jose Grange No. 10, of the Patrons of Husbandry,

- 1st - That we protest against any such proceedings on the part of the University Regents.
- 2d - That we express the utmost confidence in the ability of Prof. E. S. Carr to make the Agricultural Department of great practical utility, provided his efforts be properly seconded, and his suggestions carried out by the University management.
- 3d - That we will use all proper influence to effect a reorganization of the management of the University, so as to take it out of the hands of men who are disposed to use it to their personal, political, or financial profit. Signed.
 Laura J. Watkins, L. F. Chipman, D. M. Harwood.⁹⁰

Another article in the Daily Alta reported that the charge by the Regent, Mr. Stebbins, was that Professor Carr was incompetent and unfit. Of those present and voting, eleven of the Regents voted for removal of Professor Carr and six for keeping him in the chair of Agriculture.⁹¹ A report of the findings of a California State Grange committee appointed to investigate the affair of Professor Carr was given at the Annual Meeting of the State Grange in Stockton, October 6, 1874. It accused the Regents of unfitness, incompetency, and bad management, and suggested that the Patrons and their friends adopt measures to see that the next State Legislature remove them from office.⁹²

⁹⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 167-168.

⁹¹Daily Alta California, August 12, 1874.

⁹²Proceedings of the California State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, Second Annual Session, Stockton, California (San Jose: California Granger Office, 1874), pp. 46-53.

Professor Carr was at the Teachers' Institute in San Jose, November 13, 1875. The Grangers asked him to lecture to the open Grange, which he did on January 22, 1876, with due ceremony.

Brother Carr having arrived the very excellent feast prepared by the committee appointed for the purpose was duly discussed, after which an adjournment was made to the hall and gathering around the stove we partook of the "Feast of reason" prepared for us by Professor Carr. On motion a vote of thanks was tendered him.

He was given \$20 to cover his lecture expenses, as well as the adulation of the Grangers.⁹³

Attention of the Grangers was drawn to the publication by Professor Carr of a book entitled, The Patrons of Husbandry on the Pacific Coast which was published by A. L. Bancroft in the fall of 1875. Brother Carr was again invited to lecture the group in open meeting,⁹⁴ which he did in due time.

In addition to the interest shown by the Grangers in the State University, they also gave attention to the schools closer to home. In December of 1874, Brother Henning read a resolution concerning the texts used in the common schools, which was adopted by the Grange.

Resolved that it is the sense of this Grange that the frequent change of Text-Books for the use of common schools, is injudicious, unwise and unjust, that the books now in use are sufficient in number and good enough in quality.⁹⁵

The investigating committee reported back to the Grange on December 19, 1874:

⁹³San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 92, 101, 132.

⁹⁴San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 87, 89.

⁹⁵San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 207

Whereas this Grange has passed a resolution expressive of opposition against any immediate change of text-books for our public schools, that, while we reiterate this resolution, having learned since the passage of said resolution that certain School readers are now manufactured in California; Therefore: Resolved that if the State Board of Education, in considering the propositions, then determine that the home made readers are equal in merit and not higher in price, and provided a change of books can be effected so as to entirely protect the people from loss, then it is the sense of the San Jose Grange that a proper regard for the material interests of our state demands that the home made readers, shall be placed upon our state list.⁹⁶

It is interesting to note that the state still uses the same system of state approved lists of textbooks, and prefers the "home made" readers.

Another concern of the Grangers was with the salaries of the county officers. A petition was drawn up asking the State Legislature to pass a law fixing salaries for the county officers instead of allowing their present compensation by fees and salaries as the law then allowed. The charge was made that the law was unequal, unjust and oppressive, allowing fifty to one hundred percent difference in the emolument for equal attention and responsibility. Since the Legislature had only a short time to collect facts and frame bills, they had taken the Angrey Fee Bill of 1868 and made a few modifications in it. This bill was drawn up by Silent and Harrington for \$20.00, one hundred copies made and circulated throughout the county for signatures. When it was returned from circulation, it was read again before the Grange and the Worthy Lecturer, Sister Watkins, designated to take it to Sacramento to see to its passage there. Her

⁹⁶ San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book 1, pp. 210-211.

expenses, \$15, for railroad fare and hotel expenses while in Sacramento, were also paid by the Grange.⁹⁷ To leave nothing undone, on August 14, 1875, it was

Moved and carried that the Grangers who are appointed upon the various committees of the different Political parties in this county for the purpose of revising the Fee and Salary bill, be asked to report from time to time the action taken upon the Grangers Fee Bill which is already in existence.⁹⁸

J. W. Eashell offered resolutions to the Grange on May 29, 1875 concerning the offices of Collector and Treasurer for Santa Clara County. He believed that they should be abolished and their business farmed out to the lowest and best bidder. He also suggested that the road districts in this county should be made to conform with the several school districts.⁹⁹

The Worthy Master appointed a committee of five persons on April 24, 1875, to inquire into "what specific object the State Grange aimed to accomplish by the creation of a Committee on Emigration (sic)," and if this committee would bring reproach on the Grange by using their position.¹⁰⁰ According to the "State Grange Annual Session Report of Emigration" in October 1875, the Immigrant Bureau distributed by mail throughout the United States and Europe, printed matter relating to the resources of the state which helped to bring in a desirable class of immigrants. They felt that a Land Department should be set up by the Legislature to direct these

⁹⁷San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, pp. 92-93, 96, 98, 111, 114.

⁹⁸San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 68.

⁹⁹San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 46.

¹⁰⁰San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 37.

immigrants to areas where they could procure homes, to further the improvement and settling of the vast domains of the state. They actively promoted this conviction.¹⁰¹

Another item near to the hearts of the Grangers was concern over the water situation in this state. As early as January 3, 1874, San Jose Grange sent a report on irrigation by Brother Settle to the Legislature.¹⁰² Another request to the Legislature was sent July 1875, when the San Jose Grange requested the State Senators and Representatives to pass a law preventing the waste or diversion of the water of the state flowing from both the rivers and from the artesian wells (of which this area abounded at that time) and secure the use of this water for agriculture and horticulture.¹⁰³

The State Grange bill on irrigation was introduced by Brother Venable from Los Angeles, who was pro-granger, into the Assembly January 21, 1874. It seemed to be passing until the monopoly of San Joaquin and Kings River Canal Co. rushed in at the last moment and defeated it.¹⁰⁴ But the Grangers were not defeated. They continued to fight against water monopolies, and are to this day, for all of the questions are certainly not settled.

The Grangers, as intelligent, interested, and foresighted citizens were also among the first to call for a Constitutional Convention in California.

¹⁰¹ Proceedings of the California State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, Third Annual Session, Held at San Francisco, October, 1875. (San Francisco: Spaulding & Barto Steam Book and Job Printers, 1875), pp. 35-37.

¹⁰² San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book I, p. 84.

¹⁰³ San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 61.

¹⁰⁴ Proceedings of the California State Grange, 1874, p. 55.

The Constitution of 1849 had shown several well-defined problems, including the problems of taxation, the Chinese, the regulation of banks, railroads, big business, and land monopoly. Although the convention lasted for almost six months, it actually took care of very few of these problems satisfactorily.¹⁰⁵

Brother Cottle read this resolution to the San Jose Grange on April 14, 1877, which they accepted:

Resolved

- 1st - That the interest of the People of California require the immediate revision of the State Constitution.
- 2d - That the Supreme Court should be reconstructed, the official term reduced to four years, and the salary of the Judges to Six Thousand Dollars per annum.
- 3d - That taxation should be uniform and equal on all property including money and solvent debts after deducting indebtedness.

Provided: That the tax on land below a limited number of acres should be taxed at the same rate per cent as other property, but above that limited number of acres owned by one person, company or corporation, the rate per cent should be increased in proportion to the amount so owned.¹⁰⁶

The State Grange called a convention for the purpose of discussing desirable legislation and the possibility of the calling of a State Constitutional Convention. The printed report of this meeting follows:

San Jose, August 11, 1877 Printed Report from Convention

TO THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY IN CALIFORNIA:

Your attention is respectfully drawn to the resolutions adopted at the recent convention, held at San Francisco on the call of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, to consider what legislation is desirable to farmers, and your

¹⁰⁵John Walton Caughey, California (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1955), pp. 389-390.

¹⁰⁶San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, pp. 214-215.

co-operation is solicited to carry out the measures indicated in said resolutions. It is earnestly recommended that all candidates for the Legislature be urged to pledge themselves to do all in their power to procure the desired legislation; and that all proper means be used to elect such as will, and to defeat those who will not so pledge themselves. You are also respectfully urged to vote for, and aid in carrying the election for the calling of a Constitutional Convention to make the requisite changes to procure fair taxation, and distribution of the burden of support of the State Government.

That your attention might be thus drawn to the resolutions, and your aid solicited, this committee was by said Convention appointed to prepare and submit to you this address.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

W. L. OVERHELSER, Chairman of Committee.

GRANGERS CONVENTION ON LEGISLATION

A convention of Grangers, held pursuant to a call of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, convened at the Grange Hall in San Francisco, on Tuesday, July 10th, 1877, at one o'clock P.M.

J. V. Webster, Master of the State Grange, was called to the Chair, and Amos Adams was elected Secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were presented, and after being fully discussed were adopted:

WHEREAS, Under the present State Constitution taxation is unequal, and an undue part of the burden of supporting the State Government falls upon those least able to bear it; and

WHEREAS, The evil complained of can be remedied only by such changes in the Constitution as can be best and most speedily effected by a constitutional convention; therefore

RESOLVED, That we will vote for and use our influence to induce others to vote for a constitutional convention.

RESOLVED, That the different parties having tickets printed for the September election are hereby requested to have only the words: "For a Constitutional Convention, Yes," printed on each ticket.

RESOLVED, That the law which authorizes or is supposed to authorize the taxing of growing crops should be repealed.

RESOLVED, That if within the scope of legislation we recommend taxing of the shares of National banks.

RESOLVED, That all State and National legislation which depreciates any kind of circulating medium issued or coined by the

United States should be repealed, for we hold that all our currencies should be made of one measure of value and one purchasing power.

RESOLVED, That a more stringent law should be passed, requiring assessors to fix the same amount of assessment on uncultivated as upon cultivated land of equal agricultural capacity.

RESOLVED, That the law governing the county boards of equalization be so amended as to compel them to equalize the assessments on lands of the same quality upon complaint and proper showing of any person feeling aggrieved.

RESOLVED, That we are in favor of such legislation as will restrict charges for fares and freights by railroad and other corporations and individuals engaged in public transportation to a fair compensation for the capital employed.

RESOLVED, That we favor such legislation as will prevent discrimination in favor of or against persons and places by railroad corporations and other companies and individuals engaged as common carriers.

The report of a Committee on Education was called for, the Chairman of which read the report on public education heretofore published, which was endorsed by the convention. No further action was taken on the question of education, for the reason, the Committee had already been instructed to draw up a bill embodying the views expressed in the report.

The report from the Committee on Taxation was called for, and was responded by the Chairman by reading an able and interesting paper on that subject. It recommends the extension of sectional lines over unsurveyed lands not owned by the Government, and a more uniform assessment.

The convention requested the Chairman to hand the report to the press for publication.

The convention met and adjourned from time to time through three entire days and evenings, and after full debate and mature deliberation, the foregoing measures were adopted and recommended as being necessary for the public good, and now the convention asks the press of the State to place the same before their readers. In carrying out these measures we confidently expect the support of the agricultural and industrial classes, and do most cordially invite the support of all good and true men, regardless of party ties, business occupation or merely local interest.¹⁰⁷

San Jose Grange sent three members, Brothers Jones, Settle and Keeling to the convention in San Francisco and paid their expenses of eight dollars each. This grange was, as usual, in the middle of the activity.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁷ San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 226.

¹⁰⁸ San Jose Grange, Number 10, Book II, p. 227.

As you can see, by the wide variety of activities reported in the minutes of this grange in its first five years, Mr. Sehlmeier knows his early Grange history. It does read like a dime novel. There is an adventure on nearly every page. The Brothers and Sisters of the Patrons of Husbandry stood together against the threats of the cities, the monopolies, the elements and adversity. Bound together socially, economically, and quasi-politically, they strengthened the positions of all farmers in their areas. The Granger Movement in the seventies as a whole, was beneficial to the United States, as was the activities of San Jose Grange, Number 10, to the Santa Clara Valley and the State of California.

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