

**THE GRANGE
MASTER AND THE
GRANGE LECTURER**

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The Grange master and the Grange lecturer by Jennie Buell

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JENNIE BUELL

**THE GRANGE
MASTER AND THE
GRANGE LECTURER**

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BY

JENNIE BUELL

SECRETARY AND PAST LECTURER

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

47601



NEW YORK
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1921
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TO THE MEMORY OF MY PARENTS,
BARBER GRINNELL BUELL
AND
HARRIETT COPLEY BUELL,

WHOSE RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE HAS BEEN A LIFE-LONG
INCENTIVE AND INSPIRATION

EDITOR'S PREFACE

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CONTRARY to occasional statements that appear in discussions of farmers' organizations, the Grange is not dead. Indeed, it has a larger membership than ever before in its history, barring the few years of phenomenal growth nearly fifty years ago. The period of decline in Grange fortunes which followed this rapid expansion came to an end with the close of the last century, and for the past two decades there has been a steady increase in both local Granges and in membership.

I know of no organization that gives a better leadership training for farmers and farmers' wives than does the Grange. (Those officers in the "Subordinate" or local Grange known respectively as Master and Lecturer occupy peculiar positions of real community leadership and responsibility.) So while this book has a definite purpose to be of help to present and future incumbents of these particular offices, and to be of enlightenment and suggestion to the Grange membership as a whole, it is a book that may well be read by farmers everywhere; partly for what it tells about this influential organization, and partly because of its suggestions concerning rural community advancement and leadership.

The Grange Master and the Grange Lecturer is written for the purpose of pointing out the scope of the

work which the organization known as the Grange undertakes and to show how, by its very nature, it tends to cultivate and encourage the higher mental and social attributes of men and women who live on farms.

It contains a brief sketch of the causes that prompted the forming of such an organization among and by farmers; and it recounts some of the Grange's early history as a basis for the later parts of the book which deal more specially with methods of developing the human material which a country neighborhood offers to a Grange. ~~It is a close-at-hand~~ account of how the Grange affords an ideal plan for thus sowing the seed, nurturing the growing crop and, finally, harvesting the yield of those human traits and talents which develop best under favorable encouragement. But it goes further than to depict the plan to those who have hitherto known little or nothing of the Grange; it attempts to put practical instructions and helps drawn from experience into such form as to be a guide to those who may be elected officers of a Grange.)

The province of a Grange Master is set forth as a field of administrative opportunity of a high type,—one in which the right man, growing in his job, exerts an influence that may be far-reaching and of tremendous import. Grange Lecturers will find in this book a sympathetic statement of what confronts them when elected to this office; but, also, beside its obligations and difficulties, are placed the wide opportunities and rich personal returns that wait upon zealous efforts. Program building is assumed to be something akin to a genuine profession. The author has made an effort to antici-

pate and answer all those questions that arise in the mind of a new Lecturer of a Subordinate Grange when he begins to make and conduct programs.)

The author of this book is better equipped than any other person in the entire country to write it. She was born and brought up on a farm and lives on a farm. Many years ago she became assistant to the editor of the Michigan State Grange paper and ever since has been a ready and delightful writer. Some years ago she published a little book called *One Woman's Work for Farm Women* which was an appreciative biography of and personal tribute to a remarkable rural leader—Mrs. Mary A. Mayo. Miss Buell, in 1890, was elected Secretary of the Michigan State Grange and served sixteen years. In 1908 she was elected Lecturer of Michigan State Grange and served six years until again elected Secretary. She has just been elected Secretary for the coming two years. For the past nine years she has been preparing two programs each month, with helps for Lecturers in conducting them, for *The National Grange Monthly*.

Thus for over thirty-five years Miss Buell has been in closest personal touch with the actual working of the Grange in a representative agricultural state, and all the time living close to the real problems of the real farmers. But she has also been a student of the problems which the Grange was set to solve and has never become absorbed in the mere machinery of organization. (Her philosophy of organized agriculture can be found in a recent address of hers—"We are looking on organizations today not for what they will do for