

### THE BREAD SUPPLY AND THE RUSSIAN WAR.

The scarcity of wheat developed by the European war panic is something remarkable. If the report of the United States agricultural bureau is to be credited the stock of this country is not half of that in the corresponding period in the last calendar year. It is not agreeable to reflect that among the natural causes to which much of this must be attributed are the grasshopper devastations in the wheat growing States of the northwest. The problem of the possible capacity of the grasshopper for destructiveness is a serious one, especially at this season of the year, and emphatically, in view of the demands which may be made upon us from abroad. At the same time the culture of wheat has not made such progress here as other grains, such as corn, oats, barley, buckwheat, rice, and rye. Perhaps, on the whole, this may be a matter of congratulation, so far as the consumption in our own country is concerned, and after all that is the main matter to be looked after. This subject is of practical interest everywhere in the United States, and especially in the South. Almost everybody in that region buys bread.

The Petersburg (Va.) *Index* expresses the belief that a great deal of the flour consumed even in Petersburg, surrounded as it is with grist mills and water falls, is brought from the West and North. A correspondent of that journal suggests that the adjacent country, which was once famous for the grain it raised, should once more turn its attention to that cultivation. The Northwest, which will furnish Europe with breadstuffs, may be made rich by the European war, and the North and East gain from the demand for arms, clothing and supplies, but the cotton and tobacco of the South must suffer, and the South will have to pay war prices for meat and breadstuffs unless she devotes her fertile soil to the supply of her own wants in these respects. While the South may not be able to compete with the great grain areas of the West and Northwest, it ought to raise enough for its own consumption, and thus avoid paying the increased rates which breadstuffs of all kinds will command in the North till the war is over. The *Index* revives the tradition that when Commissioner Blair, of Virginia, and his associates, went to England in 1890 in the interests of William and Mary College of that State. Attorney General Seymour received them with the ungracious counsel, "D— your souls, raise tobacco." It is a good deal better and more Christian advice now to the planters of the South—bless your souls, raise corn and meat and whatever else is necessary for the support of your households.

All wars, as we have already shown, bring want and ruin in their train, except to the speculating buzzards, who fatten upon the corruption and decay. What should be our first object is to supply food for our own population. So far as the wheat culture accomplishes this object and leave a surplus to supply the foreign demand, it should be raised, although it has deadly enemies in the Hessian fly, the weevil and other destructive insects. Maryland is well adapted to the permanent culture of wheat, and, instead of receding westward, it might be centralized upon the Atlantic seaboard so as to enable the country to command the wheat markets of the world. At the same time we do not accept the assertion that the universal demand of civilized men is for wheat bread, or, if it is so, his civilization perverts his taste so as to make him look upon that which is merely pleasing to the eye and a luxury more important than other food portions of the human family it supports to wheat. It is in some parts of India the chief agricultural produce, and is the principal support of the vast population of China. It is extensively cultivated in parts of Africa, in Southern Europe, in the tropical countries of North and South America, and while it has flourished especially in the Carolinas, has been found as far north as Virginia, and sometimes Maryland.

Maize, or Indian corn, is of American origin, and was not introduced in the old world until after the discovery of the new. It is estimated that maize is eaten by a greater number of human beings than any other grain except rice; its analysis shows it to be admirably adapted to sustain life and to furnish material for the growth of both human beings and domestic animals. It furnishes a large share of the breadstuffs of our farming populations, and although but little consumed in cities, it largely contributes to the support of city populations in the way of meats, poultry, butter, &c. According to the federal census the United States produced more than 760,944,549 bushels of Indian corn in 1870. Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee are the chief corn producing States, though the Southern States are more remarkable for the superior quality of their corn. In those States it is a more general article of diet than elsewhere, and is so prepared as to make it as palatable as wheat.

We, therefore, invoke our fellow-citizens of the South to diversify their agriculture and place the production of corn, wheat and rice among their leading industries.—The Philadelphia *North American*, one of the leading Republican papers of the North, says: "Unless some change shall occur in the agriculture of the country, the prospect now seems to be that the South, which, before the war, was dependent upon the North for its necessary articles of food, will become the main reliance of the Northern Atlantic States for vegetable products. It already commands our provision markets to an amazing extent, and yields at the present time a steadily increasing surplus of grain.—Should that section be able to obtain the entire command of two such immense crops as cotton and wheat, it would in less than ten years regain all the losses of emancipation and civil war.—*Baltimore Sun*

### A CRIME AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

This from the New York Tribune: "Let us face the truth. Our Southern policy has not only been a curse to the whites, but it has been a curse to the freed people for whose benefit it was adopted.—It has not made them good citizens. It has not taught them how to use the ballot. It has introduced among them a demoralization more dangerous to the country than the violence of the White League, for no Republican government can stand which is not founded upon the suffrage of the virtuous and intelligent."

One would think from the tone of the above extract that the views embodied therein were entirely original, just evolved from the experience and observation of a school of social philosophers. The fact is they are at least twelve years old, and have been given over and over again by every Democratic paper and every Democratic speaker in the country. The utter failure of the reconstruction policy was predicted at the outset, and the prediction has been repeated at each stage of the wretched game; but not until the last vestige of that policy is disappearing amid the execrations of a disgusted people, do we find the Republican organs willing to acknowledge what all the world knows.

But the Tribune, though somewhat in advance of the rest of its tribe, is as yet unwilling to confess that the act on which the reconstruction policy is based was a blunder so inexcusable and so disastrous that it amounts to a gigantic crime. The more the fifteenth amendment is contemplated in the light of subsequent events, the more apparent does its insane folly become. A race upon which nature has stamped the indelible mark of intellectual inferiority, and whose original barbarism had been supplemented by two centuries of hereditary slavery, is lifted at once to the full measure of citizenship. No preliminary preparation, no probation, no education—nothing that might tend to strip the tremendous experiment of any of its dangers. The nation was literally rushed headlong into a peril whose extent we are only now beginning to realize, without any opportunity for that thoughtful study and calm reflection which should have preceded a scheme of such vast consequence. For this unnecessary, this fatal haste, and all the evils resulting therefrom, the Republican party is solely responsible. Perhaps a small portion of the rank and file may escape on the plea of ignorance, but no such excuse can avail the leaders.—Not a single prominent Republican, who advocated the immediate enfranchisement of the blacks that did not know precisely what he was about and why he was about it. He knew what the negroes were in temperament and character; he knew they were hopelessly ignorant of the first principles of politics; that they had not the smallest comprehension of the duties pertaining to citizenship; that they were simply grown up children, who would be controlled and led by designing men, to their own detriment and the irreparable injury of the country. Neither William Lloyd Garrison nor Wendell Phillips, the foremost apostles of the fifteenth amendment, could be hired to live in a community where the negroes are in a majority and ruled the whites. Yet these fanatics and their associates had no scruples in fastening upon the Southern people a yoke they would not wear themselves; and now, when that yoke is dropping off, they insist it shall be again riveted by bayonets.

Philanthropic considerations had nothing to do with the enfranchisement of the blacks. The South for all coming time. The Republican leaders did not care whether the negroes made good or bad citizens, so long as they always voted the straight Republican ticket. Hence the idea, constantly urged, that no negro can possibly cast a Democratic ballot except under some kind of compulsion. The truth is that the negro votes with those whom he thinks will do the most for him, and consequently is always anxious to get on the winning side. As to the issues involved in the election, he is perfectly indifferent, and now that Republican reconstruction has collapsed and carpet-bag power sunk out of sight, nine-tenths of the colored voters of the South will henceforth act with the Democracy. But though the fifteenth amendment promises to be a valuable reinforcement of Democratic strength, yet it is impossible to disguise the fact that the wholesale manufacture of African citizens was a calamity, the effects of which will be felt as long as the republic stands. The burden cannot be thrown off, cannot be materially lightened. Heavy as it is, it must be borne to the end. We have "made our bed and must lie in it," and our slumbers are not likely to be either peaceful or healthy. The confessions of the Republican organs are good enough in their way, but they will not take from the shoulders of the party an ounce of responsibility. There could have been no reconstruction, no carpet-bagery, none of the innumerable curses that have fastened and fed upon the South these twelve years past, had it not been for negro suffrage—and negro suffrage is a Republican child that will live to vex the American people long after the Republican party has ceased to exist.—*St. Louis Republican*.

The Richmond *State* says correctly that Mrs. Jackson should be sacred from the impudent intrusion of these "interviewers." When they invade the presence of ladies and the sanctity of private life, it is about time to put down the brakes.

One of our exchanges tells of a man who at his death bequeathed to his widow ten thousand dollars as a wedding gift in the event of her second marriage. What refinement of cruelty to throw temptation in a widow's way like that.

### THE DUTY OF FARMERS IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING EUROPEAN WAR.

STATE OF GEORGIA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ATLANTA, April 17, 1877.

To the Farmers of Georgia:

In view of the threatened war in the East—which seems now to be unavoidable—it becomes us as prudent men to avert, as far as possible, its disastrous effects upon our industries by a wise forecast in our farm economy.

The indications now are that there will be a protracted war, involving the leading powers of Europe, the necessary consequence of which will be a rapid advance in the price of all food supplies.

Even the "rumor of war" has already caused an appreciable advance in meats and breadstuffs, and a decline in our great staple—cotton. Unusually large quantities of provisions to the various European ports are already reported, and must continue so long as the war lasts.

The foreign demand for cotton may be greatly reduced, and its price fall below even its present low figures.

In view of these facts, the farmers of Georgia are urged to increase their areas in provision crops. It is not yet too late to increase the area in corn, even if it has to be done by reducing the area in cotton.—Let farmers plant enough corn to insure an ample supply for the ensuing year. Let them plant crops for their hogs, and force them forward to secure, as nearly as possible, a supply of bacon for home consumption.—Let them plant liberally in German millet and field peas to supplement their corn crop in feeding stock, in order that more of their corn may be used for bread.

If the war should be averted—of which there is at present little probability—we will have lost nothing by the above policy; if not, we will have provided against the possibility of loss or suffering. In either event, those who adopt the above advice will have nothing to regret, while those who do not may be compelled to purchase provisions at ruinously high prices, and pay for them with cotton at prices even below the cost of production. Very respectfully,

THOMAS P. JAMES, Commissioner of Agriculture.

PEANUTS.—As we are in the midst of planting time for peanuts, and as we have received inquiries from several parties as to the method and policy of making them a specialty for reason given, we venture to publish another article upon the subject of the cultivation of the peanut, particularly as it differs in some respects from the articles already published. A friend in Horry County, of this State, writes us as follows:

The peanut is a profitable crop in this section, and is worth from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per bushel, according to quality and handling. Sandy loam suits them best, and shell lime and surface from the hammock are excellent fertilizers. The land should be prepared by thorough breaking, and laid off in thirty-inch checks. Two peanuts should be planted in each check. Shell before planting and select the seed. Cultivate with sweeps entirely, and as much upon a level as possible, running the furrows both ways, and using narrower sweeps as the bunches branch out. Chop through twice with a hoe. Keep the land as level as possible. Any time after the middle of April and before the 1st of June is the time for planting. When the leaves become spotted, in the fall, the crop is ready to be harvested, and if the nuts are dug before frost, the tops furnish the finest kind of forage for that can be seen, there will be left in the ground enough to fatten at least one hog to every acre. From forty to fifty bushels per acre is a fair crop in this vicinity.

We think from what we have published that peanuts, where the soil suits, must be a remunerative crop. We like that idea of the refuse fattening the hogs. If our farmers only knew it, how easy it would be for them to grow their own meat. Five acres of red oats to the mule and one acre of pinners to the hog for 150 pounds of bacon needed, with potatoes, chufas, peas, and a little corn, will make any farm in South Carolina self-sustaining, and give the farmer his cotton crop as a net income. But these little things are too troublesome. They demand too much of our time, which we can't spare from the cotton crop. Hence most of us plant cotton to excess, and grow poorer every year.—*AIKEN in News and Courier*.

THE MAN WHO STOPS HIS PAPER.—Philip Gilbert Hamerton, in his admirable paper on "Intellectual Life," thus talks to the man who stopped his paper: "Newspapers are to the civilized world what the daily house talk is to the members of the family—they keep our daily interest in each other, they save us from the evils of isolation. To live as a member of the great white race that has filled Europe and America, and colonized or conquered whatever territory it has been pleased to occupy; to share from day to day its thoughts, its cares, its inspirations, it is necessary that every man should read his paper. Why are the French peasants so bewildered and at sea? It is because they never read a newspaper. And why are the inhabitants of the United States, though scattered over a territory fourteen times the area of France, so much more alive and modern, so much more interested in new discoveries of all kinds, and capable of selecting and utilizing the best of them? It is because the newspapers penetrate everywhere, and even the lonely dweller on the prairie or in the forest is not intellectually isolated from the great currents of public life which flow through the telegraph and press."

The *Norristown Herald* has solved the conundrum: "Why was Washington like a newspaper man?" Answer—"Because he couldn't tell a lie."

### A TOUCHING STORY.

An old fellow, who gave his name as Charles H. Slosson, was called up in a Virginia City court on the charge of drunkenness. He was a remarkably seedy looking specimen, arrayed in a dirty check shirt and a pair of loose, baggy trousers, which were prevented from falling off by a leather strap knotted about his waist. He was shivering and trembling from the effect of a debauch, and hardly had the strength to stand upright. When the judge asked him if he had anything to say, he rose up in a sort of disjointed way and demanded a jury trial, which was granted, and when his turn came he advanced and began:

"Gentlemen of the jury, I stand here to-day a defender of my own personal debasement than an example of human depravity, which like a beacon light, should warn you from the ragged rocks of intemperance. A man in my condition is like a rude sign post I once saw in Tennessee, which pointed up a road over which the green grass was beginning to wave. On the sign was the inscription, 'Smallpox,' and the index finger of a hand pointing westward. If any of you in travelling along a highway saw such a sign as that you would pause upon the brink of deadly danger and turn backward. [Sensation.]—In me you behold such a sign, and if by looking upon me any one of you can be turned back from destruction, I shall think that God in His infinite mercy has allowed me to fill a sphere of usefulness which shall enable me to bear with fortitude the imputation constantly hurled upon me by my own conscience, that I have lived in vain.

"Gentlemen of the jury, as you peruse the pages of the old poets you will see how they have deified the wine cup. They have wreathed it with the flowers of fancy, surrounded it with the halo of song, and peopled its bloody depths with the creatures of their own bright imaginations, until one might almost believe it to be the wellspring of human happiness, when bitter experience tells us in very different language that it is the fountain head of misery, the abode of the demon that destroys our lives. There is something which comes up in the fumes of the cup that foals call inspiration, but it is a crawling reptile, which, crawling up from the drops of the grape, enters the window of the brain and steals away, like a thief in the night, with our reason fast in its embrace. There is a hand in the wine cup which at any moment may put its felon grip upon your throats and strangle you as a strong man might a babe. Gentlemen of the jury, I have not long to stay. Two mighty miners are delving on this ledge—time and death. They are daily at their posts, working together side by side as one eternal shaft, clearing away the rubbish of waste rock and pushing along the ledge.—Before long I shall be gathered into the vast laboratory of death, a piece of useless porphyry, to be cast into the waste dumps of hell, and there to begin to sob. In a sad hour and the jury moved by his forcible simile, broke forth into a simultaneous sob, in which the court, spectators and prosecuting attorney joined. The jury were obliged to find a verdict of guilty, but recommended him to the mercy of the court. He was accordingly fined \$5, which the jury paid on the spot.

CUTTING OUT A BOY'S TONGUE.—A few weeks ago a man presented his son, a boy of about twelve years, to our surgeons for treatment. The case was a novel one, the child being afflicted with enlargement of the tongue. His father hailed from Williamson county, and stated that he came to San Antonio to consult our surgeons, as those of Austin, Galveston, and New Orleans, to whom he had applied, had demanded exorbitant fees. Dr. Herff informed the troubled father that he would endeavor to cure his son of the excrescence, and sympathizing with him in his trouble, and the child in his pain, the father being a poor man, he offered to perform the operation at a most reasonable charge. The citizens of Williamson county charitably raised the means to pay for the operation. It was executed Wednesday, under Dr. Herff's care, others assisting him. About four inches of tongue were taken off. The extreme end, which has been preserved in alcohol, would weigh about a quarter of a pound, and about as much more was cut off in small bits. It is thick, much wider than the child's mouth from which it was taken, is very rough, and resembles very much the tongue of a young calf. The patient is now doing well, and will no doubt be greatly benefited by the operation, which called into requisition the most perfect care and the ablest surgical knowledge. The affliction was one in which there has probably been less room for surgical experience than in any other, and is the first case of the kind we ever heard of in Texas.—*San Antonio (Texas) Express*.

The President's mail is something surprising. Usually the letters for the Executive mansion are carried from the post office by a messenger on horse-back, by an orderly who waits at the President's door to do his errands, but, since the 4th of March, it has been necessary to send it down in a wagon, specially detailed from the Post office Department for that purpose.

### THE FIELD OF JOURNALISM.

H. V. Redfield has this in a recent issue of the Cincinnati *Commercial*: It has been remarked that very few who get into journalism start out with such intention.—They drift in accidentally, and are promoted as they develop capacity. Money, wealthy parents and influence are of no sort of service in getting a young man a place on a newspaper. There is no business that is so entirely independent of all these considerations as this. A wealthy father can easily get his son a location to read law or medicine, or push him forward in almost any walk of life he may select, but he is utterly powerless to do anything for him in a journalistic way. To be sure he may buy a newspaper and set up his hopeful in that manner; but unless there is something in the youth called journalistic knack, a natural knowledge of what to write and how to write it, he will be a failure in that line, and all the money and influence of wealthy and perhaps powerful relatives will count for nothing.

Some fond parents educate their sons with especial view to make journalists of them; but it is rare that we hear of these young men after a few years. Meantime some scrub, born among the hills, having nothing but a common school education, and the knowledge scraped up in a country printing office, will advance to a front rank in the profession. He has the journalistic knack, and forces recognition because he has it.—He gets a place, not because he has wealthy parents to influence the proprietors of leading newspapers, but because he knows what to write and how to write it, and the editors take it because it is what they want. His articles go in because they supply a demand, while, perhaps, the elaborate essays from the pen of a man educated on two continents, with an especial view to journalism, are cast into the waste basket.

Young men just out of college, and with journalistic ambition, and who have had their essays passed upon by admiring relatives, and pronounced the production of genius, think if they can get a letter of introduction to the managers of some leading newspaper, they will forthwith find recognition in his columns. I don't know how many applications by mail and in person I have had from young men asking me for a letter of "recommendation" to the editor of the *Commercial*. I never complied, because I know that these agencies are not worth five cents a peek towards getting into the paper. I tell the applicants to send along whatever essays and so forth they have on hand, and that a letter of introduction a mile long would not be of the least service in influencing the editor to print what didn't fill the bill. Recommendations from those known to the editor, or the "influence" of wealthy relatives of young men ambitious to shine in journalism, are of no earthly benefit in this matter, unless, indeed, the latter might furnish money to have the *Com's* fame, at thirty dollars a column, is expensive.

The majority of successful journalists drift into it from other walks of life and perhaps the most of them up to the time they are eighteen or twenty years old, had no thought in that direction.

FIRST WORKING OF CORN.—If the land has been packed by rain since the corn was planted, run close and break deep—if the land is close and open, the ploughing is not important. In that event use plows that will go over rapidly and save labor—a shovel, or sweep, or cultivator will answer. Avoid throwing much dirt to the young corn, only enough to cover up any young grass that may be present, but be sure it is well covered; much hoeing will not pay in a corn crop, the plow alone ought very nearly to make it—of course thinning and some chopping is generally unavoidable. Thin to a stand as soon as danger of frost and worm is over. Nothing is more prejudicial to a plant than having another plant with the same wants growing beside it—the struggle for existence then becomes intensified. If the middles are not very hard or foul, and time presses, they need not be ploughed out at this working. In any event push on rapidly to give cotton its first working just as soon as it will bear it. The farmer who keeps well ahead, not only stands the best chance to make the best crops, but will do it with very much less actual labor than the laggard. Let it never be forgotten that the time to kill grass is before it can be seen. Besides, every one knows that early and frequent workings make cotton grow off rapidly—and an early growth of stalk is one of the surest antecedents of a large crop of bolls.

"I say, Paddy, that is the worst looking horse you drive I ever saw. Why don't you fatten him up?" "Fat him up is it? Faix, and the poor baste can hardly carry the mate that's on him now," replied Paddy.

### SELECTED RECIPES.

SPONGE CAKE.—Four eggs, beaten for half an hour, one cupful of sugar, one cupful flour.

LADY CAKE.—One cupful butter, two cupfuls sugar, four cupfuls flour, one cupful milk, three eggs, one-half tea-spoonful soda, flavor to taste.

FLANNEL CAKES.—To one pint of flour add one-half pint of corn meal, four eggs, one tablespoonful yeast, with milk enough to make a stiff batter; set to rise over night. Thin with warm milk and water before baking next morning.

JUMBLES.—Take four eggs, three cupfuls sugar, a very little nutmeg, one tea-spoonful baking soda, one cupful butter; stir in the flour until it will roll; cut in rounds with a hole in the center. Will keep good two or three weeks.

CRAZY BISCUIT.—Three pints of milk, five teaspoonfuls of yeast, one teaspoonful of salt; boil the milk, and then cool, stir in flour, making it a little thicker than pancake batter; add the salt, and when lukewarm put in the yeast. In the morning, add one egg, half a cupful sugar, one tea-spoonful saleratus, mix and let stand to rise; when light, make into biscuits; let it rise again, and bake in a medium oven.

TO PRESERVE EGGS.—When the eggs are taken from the nest, if they are brushed entirely over with a solution of gum arabic and laid in a cool place they will keep perfect two years, and chickens have been hatched from eggs so treated at the end of that time. If farmers as soon as they gather the eggs would cover each one with fresh melted mutton suet—just enough to cover the pores of the shell—they would confer a boon upon thousands.

PRESSED CORN BEEF.—Choose a plate piece, fat and lean; put in a pot little larger than itself, and cover with cold water; pepper well; let it boil moderately till the bones will come out; turn it several times while boiling; when cooked place in good shape in a towel, and fold up firmly; let it be thick and short in shape; place a plate over, and three or four irons or bricks to press it; let it stand till perfectly cold, or four or five hours, cut thin for the table, and garnish with sprigs of parsley.

ROUP IN FOWLS.—Regarding this offensive, troublesome, and often fatal disease among fowls, a farmer gave it as his opinion, before the American farmers' club, that seven out of ten cases were owing to the neglect of the poultry keeper, who permits his birds to be exposed to wet grounds, cold draughts and bad ventilation in the hen-houses. To prevent this troublesome visitor, give the hens a wide, clear range and plenty of fresh water; keep them cool and airy in summer, and warm and dry in the winter.

This speaker thought that the best food for newly-hatched chickens is shelled oats boiled a few minutes and mixed with meal; egg, or, better still, crumbs of bread.—Boiled potatoes given warm and corn meal are also good. When they need animal food the mother hen will provide this with insects and the like. A spoonful of sulphur stirred with the food now and then will rid fowls of vermin and tone up their systems; this was particularly advised for young chickens and turkeys.

Dr. J. V. C. Smith thought it all nonsense to try to advance the lower order of animals; he did not approve of so much cooking and cooking for them. Give fowls a wide range and they will take care of themselves. Wild turkeys rarely lose their young, and yet once domesticated in the barnyard the farmer finds much trouble in raising them.

SWEET POTATOES.—And now is the time for the potato patch, as we call it. Plough your intended potato patch two or three times before setting out draws. Having it in rows. Plough and reverse, getting the soil in fine tilth. When the time is near for setting out, take a single shovel plough, open your beds to the depth of three inches, put a little pure stable manure in the trench and await the rain. If the rain does not come, set out with water—half a pint to each hill—the earth being pressed firmly around the potato root, and a little dry dirt sprinkled around the top ground. Next is the setting out—some say one foot, some say two feet apart—I say four inches.

The best cultivation is to plough to your potato all the time, pulling the earth up around the little plants with the hoe the first working. Never bar off, thereby saving the small roots which make potatoes, and saving one-half the ploughing.

In 1876, I made 150 bushels sweet potatoes on one half acre of land by this mode—giving one hoeing, or pulling up with the hoe, and ploughing to the potato.—*R. L. Tanner*.

A Western Editor in acknowledging the gift of a peck of onions from a subscriber, says: "It is such kindness as this that always brings tears to our eyes."