



THE BIGGEST THING YET.

A Combination of Capital to Dictate the Price of Agricultural Products.

Columbia Register.

And now a scheme called the Farmers' Co-operative Brotherhood of the United States is afoot. The scheme involves an organization with an authorized capital of fifty millions of dollars, divided into one million shares. The author of this mighty project is George A. Williams of Chicago, who was born and brought up on a farm.

The shares of the company are to be sold to the farmers at \$50 to the share, no man to hold more than one, and this vast sum will be controlled in order to dictate the price of grain. It is not proposed to indulge in speculation; the farmers will not run "corners" or bulge prices, the object being to secure to the tillers of the soil a reasonable return for their labor and investment.

Mr. Williams says that he does not see why the scheme should not be successful. He says he is a practical farmer, born and raised on a farm, and that it is not many years since he left the farm. He says the farmer is the very poorest paid man in the world, and that he is the only man in the world who has nothing to say as to what his goods shall be worth; but when he has millions at his back, when he becomes a cohesive political power, things will be changed. The Brotherhood is not to be a political organization, but when it gets fairly into operation it will make itself felt.

There have been no steps taken yet beyond the fact of incorporation. Mr. Williams says big things move slow, and he does not hope to get the fifty millions at once, but that they will get half the amount, or twenty-five millions, to be deposited in some strong Chicago bank, and used as the emergency may require.

The idea is to control the corn market. It is said that as there are but five States which grow corn to any extent—Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska—it ought not to be a difficult thing to control the corn market. With this vast sum of money in hand it would not be a hard task to dictate the price of corn so as to secure the farmer a fair return for his investment.

Speaking of the constitution, Mr. Williams says whilst it may be amended, it is now what it substantially always will be, an organization the object of which will be self-protection—protection against monopolies and other combinations. The constitution provides that any one who is a farmer or renter or personally engage in farming may become a member of the organization by paying one dollar. There will be a president, three vice-presidents, two secretaries, a general in chief, an attorney, a treasurer and board directors. There will be a different treasurer for each kind of grain—wheat, oats and corn—with a loan department, a storage department and a purchasing department, each presided over by a chief and all under control of the general in chief. The board of directors will have general charge and elect all officers. There is to be a head man in each County in every State in which the Brotherhood has a membership. This head man will report monthly the condition of the crops and the grain in the hands of the Brotherhood. This general in chief has superintendence of all the departments. Delegates from each County elect the board of directors. This board of directors fix the price farmers should get for their products. Every member of the Brotherhood has the right to sell his grain to whom he sees fit, so long as the price is not lower than the minimum fixed and is satisfactory to the Brotherhood. Should the price be lower than that fixed, then the member is pledged to give the Brotherhood the preference at the price offered by others, or to borrow the money and hold the grain.

It is not proposed that the Brotherhood should hold any more grain than can be helped, though it will have to hold some, and for that purpose it will establish elevators in the principal cities. A farmer's grain will be bought only in case that he is obliged to sell and does not wish to borrow money of this Brotherhood in order to hold and the market price is below the price fixed.

When a member of the Brotherhood desires to obtain money on his grain and the market price is below the established figure, he will receive four-fifths of the cash price delivered to the order of the Brotherhood, the producer paying six per cent. on the use of the money.

Should the price advance, half of the advance goes to the farmer and the other half to the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood takes a bill of sale of the grain as security, and will be considered as having ownership of the same as soon as the money is advanced upon it.

The Brotherhood will provide suitable storage in all places where grain can be shipped, and will see to it, that only reasonable rates of transportation are charged on shipments, a special committee being charged with this duty.

Every member who sells his grain to some one else than the Brotherhood at a less price than that fixed without giving notice to the Brotherhood, will be fined \$5 for the first offense, \$25 for the second offense, and forfeit half the value of the grain sold for the third, besides losing his membership and his rights; provided that a member is not liable to a fine if he has previously notified the Brotherhood of the intended sale and it is not in a position to accept the grain.

One-half of all interest receipts, profits on advances, etc., are to be set aside to cover the guarantees of the Brotherhood on their bonds or loans, the same to be invested by the boards of directors in bonds or securities or real estate. The other half will be used in building warehouses and elevators. Whatever balance there may be will be credited to the membership fund and paid to the members every five years as earned profits.

All this looks very wild, but, in view of what has been done by co-operative associations in certain European States, and what has been done in this country by our labor organizations, it is not an actual impossibility. Yet it would seem that to protect a thousand million dollars worth of grain with fifty million is scarcely rational. It would be like a planter protecting the sale of a thousand dollar's worth of cotton with \$50 in bank. But there is this wide difference: that a great fund made up in one effective aggregation is large enough to exercise an appreciable effect at one given time, and upon the sale of produce as occasion permits, the same held by way of protection, may be repeatedly used during the market season.

If this scheme should avail anything, 5 per cent. of our cotton crop, say of three hundred million bales, or some \$15,000,000, thus banked, may protect the price of cotton in the market. But we shall see.

What are the Farmers to Do?

Baptist Courier.

Produce of all kinds is low, and the markets are dull. There is more food raised than can be eaten by men and the domestic animals. The result is that the farmer doesn't get enough to pay his family expenses and his taxes. We hear the complaint on all sides that our business has ceased to be profitable, and that that there is little prospect for any improvement in the future. The increased production of the necessities of life keeps in advance of the increase of population.

We were talking this matter over at the blacksmith shop the other day, and it was amusing to hear the variety and contrariety of opinions. Some thought the trouble was with the tariff, and that free trade would be an unfeeling panacea. Others thought there was too much farming machinery, which enables a few men to cultivate farms of one thousand acres, and so glut the market. I listened in silence for some time. At last they asked my opinion. I frankly confessed that I hadn't any to give. The facts are undisputed. We have been bringing millions of acres under cultivation within a few past years. It is virgin soil, and, of course, produces heavy crops. The railroads push out into the prairies to take the crops to market, and thus encourage the cultivation of more land. And so matters have gone on, and are going on, to increase our surplus and depress prices. There will be a reaction, of course. Human affairs always swing like a pendulum. But will not very reaction ruin many of the farmers? Those who can worry through until, by the operation of the law of supply and demand, the production of cereals comes down to the consumption, or the consumption increases until it equals the production, will do well enough. And the question is: How can we worry through? I see only one way. We must economize. We must keep out of debt. We must raise all of our supplies that we can, and buy only what is absolutely necessary. If the butcher's bill is high we must

raise our own mutton; and so with many other things. We have departed largely from the system of diversified farming which prevailed fifty years ago. Our fathers did not have a great deal to sell; but they did not buy near as much as we do. A little money with them went a great way. They lived plainly, of course, but they kept out of debt, and gradually improved their farms and their homes. We have had seasons of wonderful prosperity. They have tempted us to habits of extravagance. Let us come down to bed-rock, be patient and saving for a year or two, and all these matters will regulate themselves. The outcome does not depend upon Congress or the railroads, but on the farmers themselves.

SENEX SMITH.

WHAT BOTANY TEACHES. The True Difference Between Fruits and Vegetables.

Among the infinite variety of forms into which the different parts and organs of plants are developed, we find some of our choicest and most valuable fruit products. The leaves of many plants, like the lettuce, chicory, dandelion, parsley, etc., are largely consumed as salad or cooked as greens. In celery, we do not eat the leaf, but an abnormally thickened petiole, or stock, and asparagus heads are the young shoots gathered before they develop into branches. It is highly necessary for the preservation of a plant that its seeds should be spread widely over the ground, and we find that the fully developed seeds of many plants are surrounded by a pericarp of substances attractive and palatable to animals.

In the apple and quince, the calyx leaves and receptacle become altered and fleshy, to form the edible part of the fruit. The strawberry is not a true berry at all, for the fruit is not a ripened pistil, but an enlarged and fleshy receptacle, or extremity of the flower stalk, thickly dotted over with the minute ripened ovaries containing the seed and usually mistaken for the seeds themselves. The fig, also, consist of such an enlarged receptacle, but it has been, as it were, turned inside out and the seed-like ovaries are on the inside. A ripened rose-hip shows the same structure in a lesser degree.

Mulberries and pineapples consist of the ripened products of many flowers, placed on a common receptacle, which is itself a part of the edible mass. The gaultheria or checkerberry is not a berry, but the thickened calyx of the flower, which incloses a dry pod containing the seed. The true berry is a permanently closed, ripened pistil, inclosing the seeds. Familiar examples are the grape currant and cranberry, as well as the orange, pumpkin and gourd. The peach, plum, etc., are known as drupes, or stone fruits, in which the inner part of the pericarp or ripened pistil is hard and bone-like, inclosing the seed, while outside of this is the fleshy, edible layer.

The raspberry and blackberry are not true berries, but are composed of a number of little drupes or drupelets, placed together on an elongated receptacle. In the raspberry, the drupelets, are readily detached from the receptacle, but in the blackberry the whole coheres strongly together, and the receptacle is eaten with the rest of the fruit. A nut is a stone fruit, or drupe, in which the fleshy part is absent. The true seed is inclosed within the shell, forming the edible part. There are other plants in which the ripened pistil opens at maturity, freeing the seeds within. The pea and bean are familiar examples. The undeveloped seeds of the former delight our appetite as green peas, while the unripened pistil and seeds of the bean are boiled together, and appear as string beans.

The modification of roots also furnish many valuable vegetables. Most of these, however, are not true roots, but subterranean stems, as is shown by the presence of buds, or scars where buds have previously formed and dropped off. The so-called roots of ginger and sweet flag are merely thickened portions of a subterranean stem, called the rhizo-

ma, or root-stock. Tubers, like the potato and Jerusalem artichoke (which, by the way, is not an artichoke, and did not originate in Jerusalem) are the enlarged buds of these subterranean branches, in which a large proportion of starch has been deposited. Examples of a similar tendency to form tubers have been observed in the stems of the potato plant above the ground. A bulb, like the onion, is formed by the enlargement of the leaves of an underground stem, as shown by the scales or layers of which it is composed. Solid bulbs, or corms, are not true bulbs, but an enlarged underground stem.

In the turnip, beet and radish the upper part of the root itself shares in the enlargement, so that these vegetables are of a compound nature. The object of these underground enlargements is evidently to lay up a store of nourishment for the plant during the succeeding season. The cauliflower furnishes an example of the use of the undeveloped flowers of a plant as an article of food, and in the true artichoke the thick, fleshy plant scales are utilized in the same manner. We have thus seen that there is hardly any portion of a plant which may not be so modified as to become food for man. We have thus seen that the strawberry, raspberry and blackberry are not really berries, but that the squash and pumpkin are, while the potato, onion and flag-root are not true roots. These are only a few of the wonderfully interesting lessons taught by the science of botany.—*Popular Science News.*

Perpetuating Gerrymanders.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—For the third time in ten days the Republican Representatives were in caucus to-night to consider the arrangement of the order of business before the House. The principle subject of discussion was the McComas bill to regulate in part the time and manner of holding elections for Representative commonly known as the anti-gerrymandering bill.

Mr. McComas opened the proceedings by explaining the provisions of his bill and making a constitutional argument to justify the proposed action by Congress, finding warrant for it under the clause conferring upon Congress the power to prescribe the time, place and manner of holding elections for Representatives. He referred to the action of the Maryland and Ohio Legislature as indicative of the need for immediate action upon the subject.

Representative Lodge, of Massachusetts, endorsed all that Mr. McComas had said, and seconded warmly his arguments in favor of the bill.

Representative Kennedy, of Ohio, opposed the bill. Mr. Frank, of Missouri, opposed the bill, because, in his opinion, it was the exercise of the constitutional power for the first time for party purposes, and could not be justified. It was retroactive, and would be invidious and unpopular. It transferred to the National Congress an odious species of gerrymandering, which now and then the States resorted to, without effecting any purpose. In Missouri, which was rapidly growing to be a Republican State, it would tie the hands of the Republican party for ten years and permit Congressional rule to remain with the Democrats for that length of time.

The debate ran along for fully two hours. Several members, like Frank, feared that the bill would, if passed, prove to be a two-edged sword, and might cut as heavily into Republican strongholds as into Democratic camps.

Although it was apparent, without taking a test vote, that the bill had great strength in caucus, it was finally postponed in order to afford opportunity to discuss the subject of a service pension bill.

This came up on a proposition by Messrs. Boothman, Cheatham and others to amend the Morrill service pension as passed upon by the last caucus so as to reduce the age limitation from 62 to 56 years. There was a long discussion over this amendment, and it was midnight when the caucus adjourned, having compromised upon an amendment which will reduce the age limitation to 60 years.

THE BIGGEST SYNDICATE YET.

A Corporation Formed to Light Two Hemispheres.

PHILADELPHIA, April 26.—Financiers in this city and in New York have succeeded during the past week in placing stock for the biggest syndicate ever formed on the face of the globe. The syndicate embraces in the plans of its prodigious enterprise no less a feat than the lighting of two hemispheres, and the requisite cash is now in hand.

The incorporators of this great concern expect to meet during the coming week and perfect an organization under the title of the Anglo-American Gas Lighting Company. Arrangements have already been completed to list \$50,000,000 of stock on June 1 on the Philadelphia and New York exchanges. The personnel of the Philadelphia contingent of the syndicate has a decided "traction" aspect, all the leading capitalists of that network of street railways figuring prominently in the gigantic amalgamation. They are reinforced by the leading spirits of the old Gas Trust, and by no less important individual capitalists, W. W. Gibbs, President of the United Gas Improvement Company of this city, is the leading spirit of the new enterprise. His subscriptions aggregate nearly \$5,000,000. He has been at work on the scheme, which originated in his brain, for nearly eight years, and such has been his success that he is already alluded to as the Jay Gould of Philadelphia. Eight years ago Mr. Gibbs was unknown to local fame. Then he occupied a small office in New York city as the president of a company similar in character to the vast enterprise now successfully launched, but on a decidedly miniature scale. Mr. Gibbs removed to this city, and his establishment of the now great United Gas Improvement Company was attended with phenomenal success.

A number of leading citizens were among the incorporators, including William G. Warden, George Philler, Thos. Dolan, Henry C. Gibson, Williams S. Elkins, P. A. B. Widener, John Wanamaker, Henry H. Heuston and C. A. Grison. During its existence of nearly a decade the United Gas Improvement Company has secured ownership of the gas-lighting franchises of more than forty cities, the most important of which are Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines, Allentown, Jersey City, Paterson, Atlanta, Savannah, Columbia, Waterbury and Lewistown.

When English capitalists, following their lucrative experience with American breweries, began casting wistful eyes upon general American industries and examining their earning capacities, their attention was quickly attracted by the alert and enterprising Gibbs to the United Gas Improvement Company. English agents who are now in New York city were sent out to negotiate with the Philadelphia and New York shareholders of the plant. They represented Sir Julian Goldsind, a London banker, and the Imperial Continental Gas Company of London. Mr. Gibbs spent Friday and to day in close conference with them in New York, and returned to this city this afternoon with all the formal negotiations closed and sealed.

Southern Editors in Council.

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 30.—At the meeting of the Southern Press Association, the following resolutions were introduced by Hon. Patrick Walsh of the Augusta Chronicle, and unanimously adopted: Whereas, a measure is pending in Congress making the government a party to the general telegraphic scheme; and whereas this is a dangerous departure from the principles of democratic-republican government, as defined by Jefferson, which are best calculated to protect life and property, secure the liberties of the people and promote the welfare of citizens; and whereas a tendency to centralization in the administration of the government and increase of office-holders ought to be checked; and whereas to make the handling of the telegraphic business of the newspapers of the United States dependent on the good-will of employees, subject to party control, would be an infringement

of the liberty of the press and subversive of the best interest of the people; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, members of the Southern Press Association, earnestly request our Representatives and Senators in Congress to use their best endeavors to secure the defeat of this iniquitous measure.

Resolved, That this action be communicated to the Senators and Representatives by the president and secretary.

S. D. Pool of the New Orleans Times Democrat introduced the following resolution relative to the government improvements of the Mississippi River, which was adopted after some discussion:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the members of the Southern Press Association that the maintenance of an efficient system of levees on the Mississippi River is a matter of national concern, and that the government should take all necessary steps to build and sustain such a system. Experience has shown that the people living along the banks of the river are unable to bear the burden of taxation necessary to support such a system, and it is not right that they should be required to do so. The Mississippi is essentially a national river and its floods should be restrained by the national government.

Dr. Oliver W. Holmes is the best writer of society verse and dinner verse that our country has ever had. He is a delightful old man of more than eighty, and with a singular retention of his gifts both in prose and verse. He writes with a charm that is very pleasing, and he is one of the aged who do not seem to grow old. His heart is fresh, and he writes of being old with a vigor and grace that are wondrously attractive. We like this genial, gifted New Englander, who is not known to nurture his enmities against the South to keep them very warm. In his poem entitled "After the Curfew," a most pleasant performance, he says playfully and yet how touchingly:

The play is over. While the light
Yet lingers in the darkening hall,
I come to say a last good-night
Before the final exult all.

We gathered once, a joyous throng;
The jovial toasts went gaily round;
With jest and laugh, and shout and song,
We made the flowers and walls resound.

We come with feeble steps and slow,
A little band of four or five,
Left from the wrecks of long ago,
Still pliant to find ourselves alive.

Alive! How living, too, are they
Whose memories it is ours to share!
Spread the long table's full array;
There sits a ghost in every chair!

So ends "the boys," a lifelong play;
We, too, must hear the prompter's call
To fairer scenes and brighter day;
Farewell! I let the curtain fall!

The Sub-Treasury Plan.

Charleston World.

Editor of THE WORLD: There is one thing that some of our people want, which is, I am afraid, very different from what they think it is; that is the "Sub-Treasury Plan." The bill will not be passed, and they had better thank their stars that it can't be. A great many see the bait, but the hook just under the bait they do not see, or else they would not try to cut their own throats. If the government could do all that the "plan" calls for, why are we taxed so heavily? Surely the government would not need the money thus taken from us by heavy taxes; surely we need all we can get. The government can help us by being satisfied with lower taxes, and on the other hand, if the government debt is fourteen hundred million dollars, how could we spare so much money to build ware houses and load money besides at a lower interest than it pays now on its own debt?

A. L. EWBANK.

If you feel unable to do your work, and have that tired feeling, take Dr. J. H. McLean's Sarsaparilla; it will make you bright, active and vigorous. For sale by Dr. E. Norton.

Too many women who support their husbands.

Too many liars.

Too many bores.

Too many tiresome plays.

Too many—no, there are not too many babies, and while there are plenty of babies and plenty of love, there will always be plenty of happiness in this world.—*New York Sun.*

The most popular liniment, is the old reliable, Dr. J. H. McLean's Volcanic Oil Liniment. For sale by Dr. E. Norton.

THE SANTEE ROAD.

Canvassing Berkeley County—Last Notice Issued.

Mr. J. B. Morrison of McClellanville, one of the Berkeley county committeemen in the matter of the construction of the Mount Pleasant, Santee and Little River road, arrived in the city yesterday, and had a conference with Mr. Killian, the agent of the company. Both of these gentlemen, it is stated, will shortly make a tour through that portion of Berkeley in which the new road is to be located, for the purpose of obtaining the grants of land promised in aid of the enterprise. The following notice was issued by the corporation a few days since:

"The Mount Pleasant, Santee and Little River railroad is projected to run from the City of Charleston through the counties of Berkeley, Georgetown and Horsey, in South Carolina and Columbus, Brunswick, in North Carolina, to Wilmington, New Hanover county, with the view of a probable extension to Richmond, Suffolk, or Norfolk, Va.

"The county is now being examined for the purpose of developing the most practicable route to build the railroad upon between Charleston, S. C., and Wilmington, N. C., and also to ascertain what donations and land can be secured to the railroad company, provided the railroad is built.

"On account of the undeveloped condition of the counties through which the railroad is projected, there is not at present sufficient business to maintain a railroad and warrant a return of interest for the money required to construct the railroad; but if the citizens of Georgetown county will donate to the railroad company as much of their land as they may afford, the railroad company will, by the natural increase in the valuation of the lands donated, caused by the construction of the railroad, consider such increase in valuation of lands an indirect return of interest for the money expended in building the railroad.

"Persons donating lands will not be asked to surrender their donations until the railroad is graded or built or in operation from and to such points as may be mutually agreed upon.

"Parties donating lands must understand that when they make the railroad company joint owners with themselves in the lands of the county, it will be to the mutual advantage of both parties to develop the country as fast as possible.

"The construction of the railroad will bring additional population and new enterprises. The lumber interests will be revived, farming lands will be in demand, mechanics, workmen and business men generally will be seeking locations and places of business. The opening of the railroad will cause new towns to be built, will give quick and easy communication with distant points, and put new life into the country between Charleston and Wilmington; it will increase the valuation of lands 300 per cent., and reduce individual taxation—railroads being assessed at a valuation of \$6,000 per mile.

"The following statement of distances will show the advantage to be gained by the Mount Pleasant, Santee and Little River railroad: From Charleston to Georgetown, 53.4 miles; Georgetown to Wilmington, N. C., 100 miles; Wilmington, to Norfolk, 210 miles; Norfolk, to Wilmington, Del., 238 miles; Wilmington, Del., to New York, 116.6 miles—from Charleston to New York, 709 miles; making a difference in distance in favor of the proposed road between Charleston and New York of 94 miles less than that of any present route.—*Charleston World.*

Many people habitually endure a feeling of lassitude, because they think they have to. If they would take Dr. J. H. McLean's Sarsaparilla this feeling of weariness would give place to vigor and vitality. For sale by Dr. E. Norton.

How are things going?" asked a West sider of an old friend whom he had not met for some time.

"Tough," was the reply.

"How so?"

"Got arrested by mistake and had to prove I was an honest man."

"That's bad."

"Bad? I should say so. I never had such a hard job in my life.—*Chicago Tribune.*

The higher and more consecrated the individual life, the clearer will probably be its recognition of its dependence upon and guidance by the God who is acknowledged in all its ways.—*Cumberland Presbyterian.*