

THE STATE FARMERS' INSTITUTE. ANNUAL SESSION AT CLEMSON COLLEGE.

Address by Prof. W. J. Spillman, Agrostologist of the United States.

Clemson College is the Mecca of the South Carolina farmers, and during the month of August in each year they make a pilgrimage to the old homestead of John C. Calhoun and on one week are inspired by the great work now being done by this institution in the interest of agriculture.

The State farmers' institute of South Carolina, held under the faculty of the college, met in the college chapel last night, Professor J. S. Newman presiding. The exercises were opened with prayer by Dr. J. B. Hinnicutt, editor of The Southern Cultivator.

Professor Newman gladly welcomed the farmers and pointed out the many benefits to be derived from such a gathering of the tillers of the soil. Here farmers can both teach and learn, and such interchange of ideas is educating and very profitable.

During the past decade there has been an advance in agriculture in the South and this section should become the greatest agricultural region on the globe. Here is found an unexcelled climate, and here can be grown not only the crops common at the North, but also those that belong peculiarly to this section.

The first regular lecture of the institute was delivered by Professor W. J. Spillman, agrostologist (or grass man) of the United States department of agriculture. Professor Spillman is a native of Missouri, where he was educated and where he taught for four years. He then taught two years in Indiana, three years in Oregon, seven and one-half years in the State of Washington, and since January 1, last, has been with the department of agriculture.

Professor Spillman's subject was "Improvement in Southern Agriculture." He said that there was really but one industry in America, and that was agriculture. In comparison all other enterprises were mere side shows. The invoice of agriculture footed up twenty billion dollars. Poultry raising, a mere feature of farming, was compared with railroads. In 1897 poultry and its products aggregated in value \$297,000,000; in the same year railroads were valued at \$273,000,000—showing an advantage of \$24,000,000 in favor of the hen.

In the South farmers endeavor to produce an exclusive crop, and hence fail of attaining permanent success and profit. Here cotton is an almost universal crop and has proven to a large extent a curse. No country can prosper on a one-crop system. This was illustrated by exclusive wheat growing in Oregon in the past and at present by cotton growing in a portion of Texas. The results were the same in each State—ruination to the farmer.

To improve conditions in the South we must encourage immigration to this section. The next wave should and will come to the South and not go towards the Pacific, as that section offers no longer such inducements as this Southland. In South Carolina the farmers must feed the operatives in the mills, and to do this must engage in trucking and gardening.

The Southern farmer must diversify his crops and engage in feeding live stock. Other than live stock farming no system of agriculture is possible for any great length of time. Everything grown should be fed back to the land, either directly or indirectly, through live stock, and thereby land can be permanently improved. On every farm one acre in ten should be planted in Bermuda grass. This is the best grass known and is better in this section of the South than blue grass in Kentucky. (One acre in Bermuda grass is worth more than three acres in cotton.)

The Southern farmer has the finest live stock country in the world, and principally because the stock can be fed on cheap feeds. It is not profitable to use feed costing more than \$20 per ton, as does cotton seed meal. Let the farmer grow grass on his own farm at a cost of \$15 per ton, feed this as hay and sell cattle. Beef cattle today is higher than ever known before, and there is no reason ever again to expect cheap beef. Years ago the Northwest was stocked up with cattle, but not so today. Capitalists began to graze cattle on the plains and beef was produced cheap, because of unlimited range. The live stock in sections of the Northwest have consequently been reduced 50 per cent. The Western range on the plains is now being exhausted, and it takes to-day 60 acres, where a few years ago it took but 10 acres, to graze a cow for a year. The Southern farmer can ever find sale for his beef cattle and at profitable prices. To grow beef successfully, two things are essential,

first, never let the steer get hungry, and, second, the steer must be fed cheap feed.

Dairying is most certain to bring profit, but requires constant work and study. Dairying around the cotton mills, which are springing up all over the South, should become very profitable. For dairying in the South the breeds should be the Jersey, crosses between Jerseys and native crosses (which latter are really akin to the Jerseys), the Holsteins and the Guernseys (which are equally good with Jerseys, but not so popular.) For beef purposes the breeds recommended are: Shorthorn or Durham, Hereford and Poll Angus. The dairy animal is not a beef animal, and vice versa. Fat on the beef animal, when the animal is slaughtered, can be sold as beef, while on the dairy animal it must be cut off as tallow. In starting in the live stock business the farmer should buy the breed most plentiful in his section, thereby getting his stock cheap. He should not buy rare breeds. In live stock farming one should buy as little machinery as possible. As a feed there is nothing better than pea vine hay. To succeed in the live stock industry one must familiarize himself with its details and requirements; dairying especially requires much work, much study, great care, good local market. For pastures in spring and summer Bermuda supplies the demand, in winter grain, rescue grass, hairy vetch and burr clover.

As a rotation of crops on a stock farm Professor Spillman recommended the following: (1.) Corn and peas sown at laying-by. (2.) Winter grain, followed by peas. (3.) Cotton, and (4.) sorghum and peas. One-fourth of farm each year sown in each of these crops.

CLEMSON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. The Clemson Agricultural college of South Carolina is located on the dividing line between Oconee and Pickens counties and within one mile of Calhoun, a station on the main line of the Southern railway. The college buildings have been erected on the old Fort Hill homestead of John C. Calhoun.

This is an ideal site, on a high ridge in a grove of magnificent native oaks, having an elevation of 900 feet above sea level, and commanding on all sides inspiring views of nearby plantation scenery and to the North and the West the picturesque Blue Ridge mountains. Here and amid such surroundings a half century ago lived the great expounder of the constitution. Here today are gathered more than 500 young men from all parts of South Carolina, who are taking courses in scientific agriculture, in the mechanic arts, and in theoretical and practical textile processes.

Year after year much valuable information of a practical character is furnished to the farmers of the State. The State experiment station, which is maintained and operated under the provisions of the act of Congress known as the Hatch act, occupies a portion of the college farm, and the officers in charge gladly furnish free of all cost advice and information on any topic pertaining to general agriculture, horticulture, botany, entomology, veterinary science, dairying, stock breeding, feeding, etc.; also, analyses of fertilizers, manures, and other substances, assays of ores, determination of rocks and minerals, tests of bricks, cements, building stones, illuminating oils, calibration of electrical instruments, etc.

Further, the officers of the experiment station have already prepared and published seventy-two bulletins, and these are sent free to all citizens of the State requesting them. Many of these bulletins are very valuable and should be in the hands of every farmer in South Carolina.

The duties of the professors of Clemson College do not end with the college term, but for the past two or three years, during the summer months, farmers' institutes, embracing usually a two-days' course of lectures, have been held by members of the faculty in those counties of the State desiring same. The purpose of these county institutes is to bring practical information to the farmers and to give them the results of scientific investigation in the interest of agriculture.

Further, a special State farmers' institute of one week's duration is held in the college chapel during the month of August in each year, and, beside the faculty of the college, many prominent speakers and agriculturists from other States participate in the program.

BILL ARP ROASTS MR. SLEDD. HE MUST HAVE A DISEASED IMAGINATION.

The Creator Made the Negro Inferior and So He Will Remain. Atlanta Constitution.

Little things fret us more than big ones. If I write that Neptune is sixteen hundred millions of miles from the sun and it comes out in print sixteen millions it worries me. If I write that the doctor sewed up hare lips and it comes out hair lips, I don't like it. The type didn't know that the rabbit had a slit under its nose. If I write that I walked out into the garden to let my cholera down, meaning my anger, the type thinks I meant my shirt collar, and so changes the spelling to suit his own idea. But since I read an editor's defense in a New York paper I feel better, for he says it is amazing how few of these mistakes are made in the great dailies that have to be rushed through with lightning speed. The constant pressure on type setters and proof readers is tremendous, but they rarely make any serious blunders, and the intelligent

reader can generally correct them in his mind. And so I will not worry any more about it.

There are some other little things that are of more consequence just now. Our cook has quit, and so has the house maid—gone off to Lockmart for a week or two—gone to a house party, I think. That is all right, for the cook has been faithful a long time and needed rest. She is a good servant and keeps a clean kitchen, and we have had a house party ourselves for several months. I have been sick, but now we are reduced to the regular family of five and have but little to cook and can get along on two meals a day. My wife arranged it for me to fire up the stove and fill up the kettles and grind the coffee and put on the hominy, and then ring the bell for the girls to get up and finish up the breakfast. She said that if I felt like it I might sweep out the hall and the front veranda and settle up the front room.

Well, of course, I had to spit up some kindling and bring in the stove wood, but I am getting along fairly well, and my wife thinks the exercise is doing me good. Last night she hinted that the veranda was badly tracked up since the rain and needed a good washing. So this morning I turned loose the hose pipe on it and she praised me right smart, and I brought her some roses from my garden. We let her sleep until breakfast is ready, for she cleans up her room and makes up two beds and then sews all day for the grandchildren. But I want that colored house party to break up as soon as possible, for I don't hanker after this morning business as a regular job. Mrs. Minnie says she likes it, and I think she does. She has a good room in the back yard and good furniture and a good lamp to read by, and her little grandson lives with her, and I don't know of any colored woman that has a better time. In fact, I know of lots of good negroes in town who are contented with their situation and will continue so if they are let alone by the Northern fanatics and Southern cranks.

What craze has come over that man Sledd to cause him to write such a fool piece for the Boston magazine? What good can it possibly do, even if it was true? But it is not true and only the product of a diseased imagination. I would write hard things about him, but for his family connections. For their sake he had better exercise his feelings and his pen. The Atlantic Monthly has never shown any love for the South, and why he should select that as his organ passeth comprehension. Professor Sledd says the negro is an inferior race. Then why does he insist that we give him a space in our own churches and hotels and railroad cars?

It was the work of the Creator that made him inferior, and he will remain so—and neither education nor miscegenation will ever change it so far as social equality is concerned. Moses violated the law of God when he married that Ethiopian woman, and he had to discard her, and Aaron and Miriam chided him for it long after wards. Numbers, xii. The story goes, according to Josephus, that the Egyptians were at war with the Ethiopians, and had suffered defeat in every battle until Pharaoh was advised that no one could command his army successfully but Moses. So Moses was given command and he marched with the army to the borders of Ethiopia and met the enemy and defeated them and marched on to Saba, the royal city, and attacked the walls, and Tharbis, the daughter of the king, saw Moses from the window of her tower, and he was so handsome she fell desperately in love with him and sent a messenger to him to say that if he would marry her she would surrender the city and army to him. Moses agreed to this and their marriage was at once consummated. Then Moses returned with his victorious army to Egypt. He did not take with him his Ethiopian wife, but not long after he married Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro, the Midianite.

So we must suppose that Moses married the Ethiopian princess as a war measure and with no idea of keeping his promise. At any rate it caused trouble and shame in the family, and so it has done ever since whenever a white person mates with a negro.

What a monstrous falsehood to say that the Southern negro is debauched. Right here in our town every negro mechanic is employed at good wages. Blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, painters, draymen are all busy. Cooks, nurses and washerwomen find constant employment—and they are not contented, but sometimes dare to be merry and laugh. Where did Sledd get all that rot about kicking and cursing and beating the negroes? We never hear of such treatment in this region. Mr. Milam, a truthful gentleman, whose business keeps him on the street, told me the other day that he had heard but one oath uttered by anybody within a year, and that was by a Northern man towards a negro who asked him a civil question. Dehumanized, indeed! Ask Tribble and Brown who give their shops the most patronage. What ridiculous folly to demand seats in our churches for the negroes. They have churches of their own that were built mainly by the charity of the white folks. They don't want seats in our churches. They have schools of their own that we support, and they have excursions and baseball and watermelon and funerals and Daughters of Zion.

Oh, for shame on Sledd! I pity his family and his kindred. He thinks he has found a mare's nest, and for lack of something fresh has raked up Sam Hose again. He laments the lynch-

ings, but not the outrages, and he proposes a remedy. Mr. Sledd can set this down that the lynchings will not stop until the outrages do. When a negro dehumanizes himself and becomes a beast he ought to be lynched, whether it is Sunday or Monday. Let the lynching go on. This is the sentiment of our people, and let Boston and The Atlantic Monthly and Sledd howl. We are used to that. Not long ago we had a lynching in Rome that was reported in Broad Street in the daytime and shot to pieces and nobody was disgraced. The judge lived there and the sheriff and the town marshal and policeman and a military company, and the Governor wasn't far away, but not a soul said nay. That suits me exactly. BILL ARP.

THE CULTIVATION OF RICE.

Census Report Describes Irrigation Methods in South Carolina.

The census bulletin on agriculture in South Carolina has the following on rice culture: The beginning of irrigation in South Carolina was contemporaneous with the introduction of rice growing, the irrigation systems being similar to those now in use. Rice was first planted in 1700, and from that time until 1861 South Carolina ranked first among the States in its production. Changed labor conditions since the war, and the great expense of maintenance, due to the destructive dikes, and the total loss of crops by floods, which are frequent since the deformation of the mountain slopes, which operation against the growth of this industry and rice culture has not made the progress here that it has in a few other States.

Rice is irrigated in South Carolina by manipulating river waters through trunks built in the dikes which protect the low marsh lands from the rivers. The delta lands are selected with reference to the possibility of flooding from the rivers with fresh water at low tide, and of draining them at high tide. The reclamations of these lands necessitate the building, parallel with the river, of costly dikes, capable of resisting the force of the flood tide, and also that of the river in time of freshets. After the dikes are built, the field is divided into sections and squares by similar banks, called "check" banks. These squares contain from 5 to 30 acres each, and in turn are subdivided by ditches into beds, usually about thirty-five feet wide and extending the length of the square. Each of these squares has a wooden trunk with a door at each end, through which the water is admitted to the field. The trunks are from 30 to 40 feet long, from 3 to 12 feet wide, and about sixteen inches deep and are built under the dikes on a level with the beds of the ditches. In flooding the field the outer door is raised and the inner closed. As the tide rises the water comes in through the trunk, pushes the field door open, and passes through the ditches to the field. When the tide falls in the river, the pressure of the water in the field closes the inner swinging door against the muzzles of the trunk, thus holding the water. In draining the field this method is reversed, the field door being raised at low tide and the outer door dropped. The unlimited supply of fresh water and its perfect control by this system of flooding and draining, account for the superior quality of rice for which South Carolina is famous.

The practice of dumping the harbor dredgings into the river above Savannah has injured the system of drainage, causing the abandonment of a number of rice plantations along the Savannah River. On many plantations, which formerly were readily drained at low tide, pumping is now resorted to when the rivers are high, as the fields can not properly be drained. The pumps, which are mounted on flats or lighters, are operated by steam and shifted on the river from field to field. The suction pipe is dropped over the dike into any desired field and the water pumped into the river.

Rice is grown inland on low, swampy lands, which are flooded from reservoirs or small streams. The cultivation of upland or "Providence" rice is attempted in many of the interior counties, but owing to the low yield and an occasional total failure the results are not satisfactory. Orangeburg County has the largest crop of upland rice, and in 1899 produced 2,266,162 pounds, an average yield of 309 pounds per acre. The irrigated crop is sure as compared with that of the uplands, the average yield per acre being much higher, and the quality of rice superior.

Tide water irrigation is generally practiced in Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston, Georgetown, and Hampton counties. In 1899 the rice acreage of these counties, irrigated and upland, was 70.0 per cent. of the total, while the production, 40,651,064 pounds, was 86.0 per cent. of the total rice crop of the State. The average yield per acre was 748 pounds. The total product of all other counties was 6,708,464 pounds, an average of 288 pounds per acre.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact cost of reclaiming these delta lands. Rice irrigation was reported on 648 plantations; the average was 20,690, and the yield, 33,467,191 pounds. The average first cost per acre for preparing rice lands for irrigation, inclusive of cost of construction of dikes, trunks, check banks and ditches, is estimated to be \$28.63, and the systems in use represent a total investment of over \$851,509.

FACTS AS TO CHILD LABOR.

How the Conditions in This State Have Been Exaggerated by Northern Writers.

The Columbia Daily Record has received an advance sheet from The Tradesman, Chattanooga, on the subject of child labor in the cotton mills of the South, in which this journal undertakes to tell the truth about existing conditions in a specific and not a general way. In so far as South Carolina is concerned it will be no doubt, a great surprise to people to learn how few children under twelve years of age are employed in the mills. The Tradesman's facts were obtained this summer, when none of the children of mill operatives are at school, hence their number in the mills is greater at this season than at any other.

The following are some of the facts: Lewis V. Parker, president of the Victor Manufacturing company, says that there are 380 operatives in the mill, of whom there are twenty-seven children under twelve years of age. Mr. Parker regrets that the number is unusually large at this time, which is due to the fact that the school closed July 1. This mill operates a school nine months in the year, paying three teachers and the expenses of the school generally out of its own funds.

John A. Law, president of the Sixon mills, Spartanburg, says he has 275 people on his pay roll. Of these, nine are children under twelve years old, and they will be put out as soon as school begins, he says. There is a free school in the village running eight months in the year. Arthur T. Smith, of the Langley Manufacturing company, says that mill has 999 employees at work, of whom fourteen are under twelve years old. This corporation runs a free school four months of the year and the county five months, making nine in all. Mr. Smith states that every one of these children will go to school on the reopening.

James L. Orr, president of the Piedmont Manufacturing company, says that there are 1,423 names on his pay roll, of which fifty-six are between the ages of ten and twelve years. All of these are sweepers and jockers and are children of small families who are dependent upon them for a living. There is not one under 10 and only thirteen under eleven. There is a regular graded school, with a principal and seven teachers, and running ten months in the year, and all of it is paid for by the company.

Elison A. Smyth, of the Pelzer and Belton mills, says in the Pelzer mill there are 2,643 operatives, of whom twenty-six are under twelve years old, and in the Belton mill there are 511 operatives, of whom thirteen are less than twelve years old. He says: "At both Pelzer and Belton we have a contract book, which is signed by the head of every family we employ, and in which it is agreed that all children under twelve years of age are to go to schools provided by the mills every day the schools are open and children over twelve are to be employed in the mill. Our school runs for nine or ten months and will re-open on the 1st of September. I find that during this holiday time some of the children under twelve years of age do go into the mill to work, through they are not wanted and their employment forbidden, but often the children want to work and make their wages. Of course, there are special exceptions made to our twelve year rule in individual cases, owing to the poverty and needs of the widowed mother or invalid father, or, in the case of orphans, to the condition of want in which the grandparents are found to be."

J. I. Westervelt, of the Brandon mills, Greenville, says there are 207 employees in the mill. Nine are males under twelve and three are females under twelve, although they are just a few months removed from that age. These are more than usual on account of the school being closed, which is run ten months.

Thomas F. Parker, president of the Monaghan Mills, Greenville, says there are 388 operatives in the mill, of whom twenty-three are under twelve years. There is a school open for nine months.

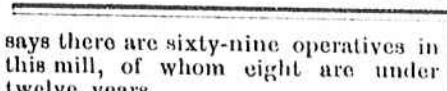
P. C. Poag, superintendent of the Goldville Manufacturing company, says there are sixty-nine operatives in this mill, of whom eight are under twelve years. R. T. Fewell, president of the Arcade mills, Rock Hill, reports that there are one hundred and eighty-nine operatives, of whom twenty are under twelve years. He declares that there is not a mill man in the State who wants to employ children under twelve, but it is sometimes done from kindness of heart and sympathy. This is the record for South Carolina so far as it goes, as it shows a surprising state of affairs when one considers the many "investigations" made of conditions by Northern writers. They have greatly exaggerated the situation, with an object in view, and succeeded in arousing the indignation of many of our own people who have accepted their statements as truth. According to the showing made, says the Columbia Record, there is no need for any legislation on the subject in this State, for the mill owners themselves do not want to employ children under twelve years of age, and they do not do so except when they believe they are doing good to the children themselves and their families.

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