

## ALLIANCE DEPARTMENT.

J. F. NISBET Editor.

Now that another cotton season is upon us I would urge that the crop be more carefully handled than it has been in the past. Notwithstanding the fact that cotton is our money crop and is therefore seemingly more valuable than any other crop to the farmers of the South it is handled with less care and after it is packed it is allowed to be exposed to the weather and become damaged so that it is not receivable by the buyer until it is picked or so much is taken off for bad cotton and the water that is in it that it is a serious loss to the farmer. Now, brethren, such a state of affairs should not exist and with a little forethought and very little trouble and expense this great loss can be avoided.

Pursuant to the call of President J. R. Knight the Alliance-men met in the court house at 10 a. m. last Friday. The meeting was called to order by the President. After a statement by the County Trade Agent in regard to the purchase of bagging and ties for the coming season a resolution was passed asking the brethren to send in their orders for bagging and ties to the County Trade Agent as early as possible. Then Brother D. P. Duncan, State Exchange Manager, being present was introduced and gave us a talk on the business management of the State Exchange which was very practical and instructive. Showing among other things what our exchange is doing for us in the way of prices and that it is our duty and to our advantage to trade as much as possible through the exchange. The business of the exchange has in the past year amounted to more than \$60,000.

### SOUTHERN FARMER'S NEEDS.

#### Secretary Wilson Proposes to Give Them Special Attention.

Secretary Wilson of the Agricultural Department is directing special efforts toward the promotion of farming interests in the South. "The South has never had the proper attention paid to it by the Agricultural Department," said Secretary Wilson when asked about his determination to make a Southern tour. "This department can be of great service to the farmers of the South, and I propose to give them the benefits of any valuable data I may have collected about their soil and lands. In the first place I do not know the South as I do the West, and few of my predecessors have. My trip to Tennessee has whetted my appetite for this Southern country, and in October I expect to make an extended tour throughout the Southern States. I am going to the Nashville Exposition again in the fall, and on my way down I shall stop in Kentucky, and after visiting the Exposition I shall push on to Louisiana and Alabama and return to Washington by way of Georgia and the Carolinas. I shall then be in a position to make this department of actual use to that part of the country.

One may know all about the North and yet be absolutely ignorant of the South.

"Southern conditions differ very much from Northern conditions as regards the soil of the two sections. In the South you have more heat and moisture, and heat and moisture always tend to decomposition of organic matter in cultivated soil. This tendency can only be prevented by a system of rotation in which there are periods of grazing for the purpose of building up the soil with roots.

"It must be remembered that Southern soil has been under cultivation for a long time, and the organic matter has been largely oxidized or burnt out, leaving the soil without roots that would prevent it from washing. This destruction of the organic matter in the soil liberates the nitrogen and lets it return to the general storehouse in the atmosphere. The nitrogen can only be brought back by growing leguminous plants, pod bearing plants, such as clover, peas and beans.

"The Southern people must learn that they must plant clover. If the soil is not good for clover then they must plant peas and beans in order to put the nitrogen back into the soil. To buy nitrogen in the shape of saltpetre costs 19 cents a pound, and it is much cheaper and the effect is more lasting to give over the field occasionally to pasture."

Here the secretary brought out a lot of tiny bottles with the roots of a number of leguminous or pod plants preserved in alcohol. He pointed out certain little particles looking like homoeopathic pills, which he said were continually growing there and which stored up the nitrogen. "As the plant ripens," he said, "the nitrogen creeps up into the stalk and is lost in the atmosphere, so that it is necessary that the plants should be cut and upturned before the nitrogen is dissipated.

"I intend to prepare a paper, with illustrations, showing the necessity of bringing the Southern land back to its former fertility. The food that a plant needs is abundant in the South with the exception of nitrogen.

"In Tennessee, for instance, have recently been discovered immense quantities of stone, rich in phosphates. The South is peculiarly rich in plant medicines and they can all be utilized very easily and with little expense. There is the cotton seed, for example, richer with nitrogenic by-product than any seed known to commerce."

"But the cotton seed is largely used in the preparation of oil, is it not?"

"It is just as valuable after the oil has been extracted as before," he replied, "and every bit of the waste should be returned to the ground. And where the seed is not sold for for oil it should be scattered over the fields. It will be found to be a splendid fertilizer. There are many things about the Southern soil which I have yet to learn and which I shall take keen interest in studying when I go through the South."

After his return from the South Secretary Wilson will, through the department, promulgate ideas for the betterment of the agricultural interests of the South.

## KNIGHT-WATCHMAN NOTES.

BY GENERAL REMARKER.

"Weyler has taken the field" again they say. Weyler takes the field frequently, but never appears to keep it.

Some name besides "the tariff of 1897" is wanted for that thing. Call it "the protective-tariff."

Col. Fred Grant, appears to be the only gentleman connected with the board of New York Police Commissioners.

There is no use of disputing as to the exact time the tariff law went into operation. It was when the sugar trust got good and ready.

If Rockefeller should now cheat the fools of Brown University out of that bribe they looked for, no decent man would cry over the joke.

If the starved and harrowed people of India should shoot a few Englishmen out of the mouths of a cannon, it would give a new turn to a bit of history.

I don't know anything about the private business of Mrs. Lease of Kansas. But if you see any account of her whatever in the subsidized press, you bet ten to one it's a lie.

We can now be absolutely sure that the conduct of Brown University toward Prof. Andrews was un-American, mercenary, and infamous; for the New York *Evening Post* commends it.

Japan didn't decorate for our Fourth of July. But she and her prompter "perfidious Albion," will yet find that neither the day nor the spirit of it has been abolished in this country.

Lynching is wrong, and ought to be unnecessary. But it is better than any system of law that does not protect women against even their selfish and insane lovers. The Ryder case suggests this remark.

When a lady suddenly jumps into a poker game, takes her husband by the hair, kicks over the table, and scoops the cash into her apron, it is good evidence that she is named Mas. Hornbeak to some purpose.

Col. Fred Grant can't stand the sneak, decoy-duck, skunk police methods of creatures like Anthony Comstock and Captain Chapman. Of course Col. Grant is right. Such methods are really much more immoral than even "obscenity" and "disorderly houses."

Those members of Congress who understood the humbug tariff bill just passed, who knew it was abominable, yet voted for it, are the political philosophers of the day. More money alone can bring prosperity; so the worse the tariff the better the object lesson.

When policemen, all over the country, keep so busy with the morals of women that murderers, burglars and ravishers have easy times, it is no wonder that "Judge Lynch" has taken up the real vocation of the police. By and by, perhaps, he will take a few policemen themselves in hand.

Hon. Thomas Watson, who now boasts of having defeated Bryan, thinks that the People's party is being "resolved into its original elements." But Watson always considered himself the party. Into what, then, will be "resolved" the greatest, living egotist, not excepting Hon. George Francis Train?

The Massachusetts woman who hires a boy to wet horses' heads on hot days is a well-meaning soul, and does some good. The horses' heads are kept cool, though the boy's head sometimes gets pretty hot. But if Massachusetts won't protect human beings from her gold-bug Shylock's, it is something for her to consider the welfare of other animals.

I have not a word to say against Mr. Percy Alden, that English passenger on the steamer *Mobile*, who refused the other day to participate in singing "God Save the Queen." Personally, it is well enough to save that respectable old lady; but Mr. Alden probably knew that in the government of Britain she is only a figurehead for the Rothschilds, and perhaps he understood the causes of the famine in India. The Americans who tried to sit on him appear to have been too fresh for their intelligence.

### THE PENSIONERS.

#### The List Increased as Well as the Expenses.

The pension department is rapidly completing its work, and in a "few days" the checks will be forthcoming. Pensioners have heard of "few days" so long, that it really seems sarcasm to repeat it, but this time it is a fact. The number of pensioners this year will be 5,841 as against 4,714 last year, an increase of 1,127.

Class "A" pensioners will get \$72; class "B" \$20; class "C" about \$15.50. Under the new law the expenses of the department will go to \$1,400, instead of \$800.

The following gives the total number of pensioners by counties for 1896 and 1897:

Abbeville, 99 and 121; Aiken, 112 and 159; Anderson, 356 and 458; Barnwell, 87 and 125; Beaufort, 12 and 19; Berkeley, 56 and 101; Charleston, 66 and 92; Cherokee, — and 143; Chester, 43 and 59; Chesterfield, 156 and 180; Clarendon, 91 and 110; Colleton, 169 and 306; Darlington, 118 and 163; Edgefield, 168 and 114; Fairfield, 81 and 93; Florence, 86 and 133; Georgetown, 10 and 26; Greenville, 314 and 319; Greenwood, — and 62; Hampton, 154, and 178; Horry, 99 and 126; Kershaw, 63 and 86; Lancaster, 121 and 202; Laurens, 234 and 188; Lexington, 78 and 96; Marion, 155 and 112; Marlboro, 81 and 98; Newberry, 125 and 163; Oconee, 149 and 172; Orangeburg, 93 and 106; Pickens, 134 and 219; Richland, 157 and 184; Saluda, — 93; Spartanburg, 362 and 393; Sumter, 166 and 182; Union, 159 and 124; Williamsburg, 70 and 84; York, 297 and 253.

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—A protracted meeting is in progress this week at Pleasant Plains church, conducted by Rev. J. B. Bozeman.

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## Notice to Overseers.

THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS direct that all overseers of roads call out their hands and work their respective sections without delay. Now is the time to work the roads. Do not wait until the busy season comes, but work them now, or during this month. In some sections they are not yet they have already been worked, but as yet, the work is very scattering throughout the county. To these broadminded, progressive men who recognize their responsibilities, and who are determined to give to the people the best roads within their power, I extend a word of commendation. May your example be a useful guide for others.

The influences which are being brought to bear to convince you of the necessity for better public highways are so many, and so widespread that you cannot fail to realize that the public demand is for improved means of communication. The press, in all sections of the county, is earnestly striving to convince our people that our public highways, as a whole, are a disgrace to a civilized country, and that the best roads would result in untold benefits to all our people. Public speakers and writers, more or less eminent, reiterate such sentiments. Farmers, manufacturers, clergymen, lawyers, doctors, schoolboys, all realize the evil attending bad roads. Then, let us fall into the line of progress, and it will not be long until our roads will be on a plane with those of our neighboring States. Now, I am free to confess that under our present system of road-making not a good deal can be accomplished, but great improvement can be made if the overseers will give the matter their earnest attention, and giving four days' labor each year, as the law requires. I do not expect any of the overseers to be a John London McAdam, who was probably the greatest authority on road-making the world has ever known, but I want you to do the very best you can with your limited means. It is the duty of the overseers to keep the undergrowth on the sides of the bridges cut down so as not to shade the bridges and your attention is especially called to this matter.

L. J. PERRY, County Supervisor.

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