

ALLIANCE DEPARTMENT.

J. F. NISBET Editor.

It seems strange that our farmers will take no better care of their cotton. We have already had a few bales of damaged cotton of this season's crop. We know it is cheap, but so much the more need to take care of it. Do not leave it lying on the wet ground after it has been ginned for it will rot before you think about it.

The Cotton Plant is being published again. It is a splendid Alliance and agricultural paper and should have the support of every farmer in South Carolina. Its aim is to reorganize and build up the Alliance, and every Allianced man should aid in the good work. We need the Alliance now as much as ever before, and our State organ should be maintained. The exchange price list alone is worth more than the price of the paper. We will be glad to send subscriptions for any one. *Subscribe.*

Reorganize The Alliance.

It is a pity to see the apathy manifested in maintaining the Alliance organization. It has accomplished a great deal for the farmers, if in no other way, by showing them what their power is when organized. Every farmer can readily recall how they stamped the life out of the jute trust a few years ago, when the insolent trust attempted to levy a tribute upon them by raising the price of bagging; and they can readily recall how effectually they squelched the tie trust last year; and they can equally as readily understand that they were enabled to bring the whole force of their power to bear upon these trusts and assail them with a solid front because they had the organized machinery at hand to marshal their forces. And who can doubt that right now, if they were as thoroughly organized and united as they were six and eight years ago, that they could control the cotton market, and have at least some voice in regulating the price by regulating the amount put on the market? As it is, they are practically disorganized all over the South, and the greed of trusts and corporations is chuckling over the fact that they have the cotton market at their mercy. Every other calling and profession in life almost is organized for their protection and mutual self-interest, and some of them are organized to prey on the farmer; and the farmers should organize and remain organized, not to make war on any other calling or class in life, but for their mutual self-protection and to take care of their individual interests and of that of the whole. Here is now a cotton crop less in size than for some years, and the speculators and money sharks are organized and combined to get it at practically about the cost of production, and the farmer is standing by as helpless as a sheep while the shearing process is going on.

While there are syndicates and trusts and monopolies and cotton exchanges and boards of trade existing, the farmers should loyally adhere and maintain their Alliance organization—not to go into politics—but as a matter of business, as a matter of self-preservation. Who can doubt that but for the wide discussion of economic questions by the Alliance that many of these questions would have had the prominence in the public eye that they have to-day, or that they would have as many friends and advocates among the public men of the country and in the press as they have to-day? It is largely owing to the fact that they have directed public attention to certain great questions that are before the country to-day for solution, that they have been heard and discussed in our legis-

lative halls. The farmer and his crops are the lever that move the business world; then, let him move that lever by controlling it in an organized capacity, keeping steadily in view his great motto, "Equal rights to all; special privileges to none."

To Reduce The Acreage.

The farmers of Butts County, Ga., are preparing to organize a union or alliance, for the purpose of reducing the acreage in cotton. It is said to be more aggressive than the Cotton Planter's Protective Association, and it certainly has very strong and binding provisions in the plan of union, which includes the following:

1. Every land owner or farm laborer are eligible.
2. No member will be allowed to plant more than one acre to every three in cultivation.
3. The whole union will be composed of the cotton-growing States. Each State will have a union, and each country and each district a union.
4. It will be an oath-bound organization, but not necessarily a secret society. The penalties for violating any of the rules are very severe and will cause the acreage to be reduced in fact. For instance, each district will have a surveyor who will measure all the crops after planting is done, and a man who has planted more than allowed by the society will forfeit two bales to the acre for every excessive acre he has planted, to go into the treasury of the association. No member will employ a laborer, except for wages, who is not a member, and no member will work a man's land whose owner is not a member. They will not patronize a merchant or railroad that deals with men who are not members. They mean to reduce the cotton crop or die in the attempt.

The president of the county union will be authorized to employ the county surveyor to investigate every suspicious case. After he has compared the digest stock returns with the average of the returns of the union's surveyor, the union's surveyor, would forfeit all his compensation for any mistake he had made.

The increased acreage in grain crops would prevent millions of dollars of dollars from leaving the cotton States. The system would improve the lands 100 per cent in ten years. The improvement in cattle and stock would be immense. The increase of home made manure would save more than the farmers clear on their crops now. There are hundreds of other advantages too numerous to mention.

Cotton Experts.

Now the experts are figuring upon the cotton problem and are puzzling their feather brains to account for its low price. They cannot understand why, with 500,000 bales less than the visible supply of cotton in the United States at this time last year and with 200,000 less in Europe, making a deficiency, as compared with the visible supply of last year of nearly 1,000,000 bales, middling cotton in New York should be selling for 13-4 cents less than a year ago.

If the man who manipulates the cotton after it is made, had half as much common sense as the men who make it, they wouldn't be long in realizing what it is that keeps it down.

The destruction of half the money in the world, by the demonetization of silver has made the people who use the cotton goods too poor to buy them.

The consumer not being able to buy, the manufacturer cannot

sell his fabrics when manufactured. The manufacturer not being able to sell his goods is consequently not able to buy the cotton, and would be a fool to work it up if he was. The manufacturer not being able to buy, of course the producer of cotton cannot expect to get anything for it.

If the crop was to fall short 5,000,000 bales it would not effect the price, only in a speculative sense. There is no market for cotton goods, because there is no money to buy them with, and without a market for cotton goods there can be no market for the raw cotton. The cotton spinners of Lancashire, England, say that the demonetization of silver in India has destroyed the market for these fabrics, and they do not want cotton at any price. This is the long and short of it.—Atlanta Commercial.

Facts About Wheat.

The Johnston Monitor says that in urging our farmers to once more turn their attention to the raising of their own "hog and hominy" we should not omit to put in a word in behalf of wheat. Every farmer could and should devote a few acres every year to the cultivation of wheat. The Greenville News speaks of a farmer who reasons in this way: "He has five acres that he can sow in wheat and he is not out one cent of money for cultivating it. If the crop is a dead failure he is no poorer. If he makes forty bushels of wheat he is spared the necessity of spending \$40 for flour. If wheat should fall to 50 cents a bushel he would still be compelled to spend perhaps \$20 for wheat. Having the spare labor and land and stock, it is a saving to him to raise this wheat no matter what the price may be in the West."

In conversation with Dr. Timmerman he told us that he had sowed wheat every year since '56 and he had made only two failures, and one of them resulted from a late frost which occurred when the wheat was in the boot. Forty years with only two failures and yet many farmers say that wheat is too uncertain a crop to be wasting time on. This is a mistaken idea and one that we hope will be generally discarded and every farmer resolve to make at least one more effort to become independent of Western dollar wheat.

In this connection we will relate a fact which should encourage every farmer to make a trial effort. Mr. R. L. Prater, of Batesburg, sowed last fall six acres of piney woods land, near the old Peterson sawmill, and harvested, threshed and cleaned up 96 bushels of fine wheat—sixteen bushels per acre. This is a fact. Perhaps you can do as well. Anyhow, try it; but don't rob yourself and discourage the wheat by putting it in land that you think wouldn't make anything else. Give it a fair showing and we believe you will be successful.

The First Cotton Mill.

Several different towns in the United States claim the unique distinction of having erected the first American cotton mill, but from the best information that can be obtained, it seems that the credit properly belongs to the town of Beverly, Mass.

The circumstances leading up to this discovery may be of interest to our readers. Some two or three years ago Mayor Rantoul, of Salem, Mass., was invited to Pawtucket, R. I., to attend the centennial exercises held at that place in commemoration of the opening of the famous Slater mill. In sending out the invitations to this centennial event the owners of the mill claim-

ed it to be the first establishment of its kind ever erected in the United States. For some reason Mayor Rantoul was unable to be present at the exercises, but, being deeply interested in historical researches, he decided at his leisure to investigate the claims of the Pawtucket mill owners. This investigation led to the discovery that the old cotton mill at Beverly, Mass., which was burned down in 1838, had been in operation for several years prior to the establishment of the mill at Pawtucket, and that no less a witness than General Washington himself could be cited in confirmation of the fact. It seems that General Washington while on a tour of the New England States in 1789 made a visit to the old Beverly cotton mill, and was so impressed with the novelty of the spectacle that he devoted several pages of his diary to its description. This old diary is still to be found among General Washington's papers.

As the researches of Mayor Rantoul seemed to settle the matter beyond all controversy, the residents of Beverly, Mass., have recently caused a handsome tablet to be erected on the site of the old mill, commemorating the establishment of the first enterprise of its kind inaugurated in the United States.

Johnny's Cheap Lemonade.

Johnny wanted to earn a little money with which to buy fireworks for the Fourth of July, and by dint of coaxing, persuaded his mother to allow him to run a small lemonade stand on the street in front of the house. A lady came along soon after he had started in business and asked for a glass of lemonade. He told her that the lemonade in one pail was five cents a glass and that in the other pail two cents a glass.

"Why do you only charge two cents for this lemonade, while you charge five cents for the other?" asked the lady. Isn't it just as good?"

"Yes; it's just as good in either pail," replied the boy.

"All right," said the lady, give me some of the two-cent lemonade, if that is the case."

After she had drunk the glass and paid for it, she said:

"Now, Johnnie, I want you to tell me why you only charge two cents for this lemonade, when it is just as good as the other?"

"Well, you see, it is just this way," replied Johnnie. "This here lemonade that I charge five cents for was just as that in the other pail that only cost two cents, but Bobby Jones' little bull pup fell in that pail, and so I am selling it three cents cheaper."

Czar's Railroad Sentries.

Four days before the Russian Czar travels any railroad line the latter is patrolled on both sides by sentinels, who are stationed at a distance of 200 yards from one another. They keep their eyes open, but otherwise are allowed to take it easy, taking what is known as the "first position," the rifle being slung across the shoulder. Six hours before the passage of the imperial train they assume the "second position." That is to say, they shoulder their rifles and march briskly up and down, with every mental faculty on the qui vive.

An hour before the imperial train passes they assume the "third position," standing with their backs toward the line and the train, and allowing no one under any circumstance to approach within a hundred yards of the track until 10 minutes after the Emperor has passed. Should any one attempt to approach they have orders to challenge, and if the individual continues to approach in spite of challenge and warning, they have orders to shoot to kill.—Chicago Record.

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TUESDAY'S ELECTION.

Democrats Show Gains And Increased Majorities in Many States.

There were elections in many of the states last Tuesday, and although an off year, the Democrats are very much encouraged. Several Democratic states which went Republican last year, have returned to the Democratic fold, and everywhere there is evidence of Democratic gain. Following is a synopsis of the situation as it has appeared in the papers:

Interest in the New York election was not confined to developments in the city. The whole state participated in the election for chief judge of the court of appeals. There were several candidates, and the winner is A. P. Parker, Democrat. His plurality is in the neighborhood of 50,000 votes. The New York legislature is still overwhelmingly Republican.

News from Ohio is encouraging. Hamilton county, in which Cincinnati is located, and which gave McKinley a heavy majority last year, went Democratic by about 2,000 votes. How the legislature will stand is not definitely known, though it is likely that the Republican majority will be reduced to about five on joint ballot. A rumor has been put in circulation to the effect that Hanna will be prevented from returning to the senate. The scheme is this: Instead of putting up a candidate of their own, the Democrats will unite with anti-Hanna Republicans and elect Governor Bushnell. If Bushnell declines to run, they will unite on some other Republican. The rumor, it is said, is giving the Hanna people great uneasiness. There is also a disposition throughout the state to boon John R. McLean for president in 1900. The people are giving him credit for the reduction of the Republican plurality from 58,000 last year, to something like half those figures.

The Democrats gained everywhere in Kentucky and carried the state by a majority of fifteen or twenty thousand. The legislature will be overwhelmingly Democratic, and there is talk of sending Blackburn to the Senate; but this cannot be done until after there is another election, as Senator Lindsay's term does not expire in time.

The Republicans carried Pennsylvania by 124,000 plurality, and Massachusetts by about 100,000. In Virginia the Democrats made a clean sweep by an increased majority. In Maryland, the election is so close that it can only be settled by the official count; but it looks as if a Republican will succeed Gorman in the United States senate. Nebraska shows a largely increased majority for free silver. Iowa goes Republican by a majority of about 30,000.