

ALLIANCE DEPARTMENT.

J. F. NISBET Editor.

We are requested to announce that Lancaster Court house Alliance will meet on next Saturday, the 18th inst at 3 o'clock p. m.

We are afraid the presence of smallpox in Atlanta, Ga., will seriously interfere with the meeting of the Cotton Growers Association. But we hope they will manage to meet some place for we believe that a great deal depends upon the success of the Association.

Now is a good time to put in some telling work for the Alliance.

The farmers are about through gathering their crops, and have more time to devote to the work of re-organizing and building up the Alliance. We know that the low price of cotton have brought hard times and consequently discouragement to many of our people, and probably the future looks dark and we say—and it is a fact that we cannot make a living by raising cotton at five cents per pound. But then, when we take time to think we know that we cannot stop raising cotton, for it is our money crop. Let us try to make the best we can of the situation. Raise as much as possible of the necessities of life and then all the cotton we can. I believe this is the only way that the acreage can be reduced and what we do plant let us give it the best culture possible by giving plenty of fertilizers and that of the very best kind. Now I want to say to the Alliance-men that you bought your fertilizers cheaper through the State Exchange than your local merchant can afford to sell them and it is your duty to help your neighbor and at the same time help the Alliance and the Exchange by getting your neighbor to come into the Alliance. The January meeting will soon be here, and we hope to see a full meeting and a large increase in this county. We want every farmer that reads this to go and attach himself to some sub-Alliance and be ready to enjoy the advantages of buying through the State Exchange.

The annual report of the statistician of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. John Hyde, was issued a few days ago. It is devoted mainly to criticisms of the cumbersome and unbusiness like crop-reporting system that has been in use in the department during the last few years and to recommendations looking to an improvement of the system. Mr. Hyde states that his brief official connection with the division has been sufficient to impress him strongly (1) with the extreme cumbersome nature of the existing system of crop-reporting; (2) with the fact that the information obtained is utterly incommensurate with the labor involved in its collection, and (3) with the disadvantage under which the farmer labors in being placed in possession, so much less promptly than other citizens, of the information which the department makes public from time to time concerning the condition of the crops in this country.

Eleven times during each year

7,500 persons report on the condition of the crops in their respective localities to twenty-one salaried state agents, who co-ordinate their reports and communicate the result to the department at Washington. At the same time that this is being done, 6,800 other persons are reporting to 2,400 county correspondents, who similarly co-ordinate their returns and report to the department. The same mails that bring these state and county reports to Washington carry also similar reports from 40,000 correspondents, who report each for his own township, beat, magisterial district, or voting precinct, and several times during the year the number is still further increased by the addition of 12,500 cotton correspondents, 15,000 millers, elevator proprietors, and a variable number of individual farmers, selected from a list of 113,000, there being thus a by no means remote possibility that nearly 200,000 persons may report simultaneously upon the condition of certain selected crops. In addition to these, 115 transportation companies make monthly returns of cotton shipped over their respective lines.

It would naturally be supposed that with a force outnumbering the enumerators of the federal census five to one a most complete and accurate setting forth of the agricultural condition of the country would at all times be within the power of the statistician. As a matter of fact, however, this highly elaborate system is in several important respects exceedingly weak. The indefinite multiplication of crop reporters, whose only compensation is an occasional bulletin or a packets of garden seed, unquestionably weakens the sense of responsibility on the part of the individual reporter and impairs that obligation to the faithful performance of duty which should accompany even the rendering of gratuitous service.

Furthermore, the handling of so enormous a number of returns within the few days preceding the tenth day of each month precludes that careful co-ordination of facts. But unwieldy as the machinery employed, the statistician recommends its dismemberment only in the event of provision being made for some slight pecuniary acknowledgment of the services of a carefully selected corps of correspondents, located mainly in the principal agricultural states.

By judicious selection, therefore, in not more than twenty-five states, of a corps of intelligent, and, if possible, experienced correspondents, each of whom should be paid \$2 for each of nine reports, making \$20 per annum, the department would establish a system upon which it could rely for the due reporting of all but a very small part of the total production of the principal crops, and it could safely depend upon its salaried state agent for information concerning the minor agricultural states.

As a further means, not only of strengthening and unifying the statistical work of the department, but also of bringing the department itself into closer touch with agricultural interests of the country, the statistician recommends the appointment of five traveling inspectors. The statistician recommends a return to the former practice of the department in having a separate state statistical agent in each state, in preference to the system of state grouping, which now obtains.

Although the printing and mailing of the monthly report of each issue, of which 200,000 copies are printed, has been considerably expedited during the last few months, the statistician expresses the opinion that the department is not yet doing its full duty to the farmer as regards

the prompt dissemination of information relative to the condition of crops at home and abroad, and the actual and prospective status of the markets. He recommends the prominent display in rural post-offices of brief reports on the condition of the staple crops and the prices ruling in the principal markets, and on the prospective requirements of foreign countries.

The report concludes with the urgent recommendation that the statistical division be reorganized as a bureau, and estimates the total expenses of such a change of status as not to exceed \$3,000 per annum, the greater portion of which would be saved in other directions.

Luxuries of Farmers.

According to a correspondent of the Chicago Record the farmers in certain parts of Indiana will soon enjoy some of the advantages hitherto reserved to cities. Farmers in Franklin, Fayette and Dearborn counties are preparing to make a test of co-operation on a very extensive scale, which will include not only buying as a firm but the selling of their products in the same manner. While there have been a great many schemes of a co-operative nature attempted in Indiana, none has been planned on such a scale. Farmers will buy even their clothing by the lot and boots and shoes by the case. Their household necessities and luxuries will be purchased in the same way and they will sell their wheat, corn, oats, barley and farm produce as one big company. They see many advantages which a scheme of this kind will possess beyond the simple monetary gain.

In Madison and Grant counties, along the line of the new Gas Belt Electric railway, another scheme is to be tested which will advance the farmer's interests and put him on a more equal basis with the city man. Electric service for lighting or motor power is to be furnished to him at a nominal cost. He can have his house lighted by electricity and can work all his machinery with power. Already the telephone system has been extended to country homes, and, with the additional service of electric currents which will enable him to enjoy all of the luxuries of the city, even to cooking with electricity if he wishes to, the Indiana farmer will find life worth living. In Eastern Indiana he already has natural gas burning in his stoves and jets, and the grocer and butcher, as well as the general-supply store man have extended their daily service to his doors. Electric cars are running across his land and the worth of living is reduced to a minimum.

A. M. E. Zion Conference.

The annual conference of the A. M. E. Zion church is in session in this city. Bishop Clinton of Lancaster presides, and there are about one hundred ministers in attendance. The conference holds its meetings in Jones' chapel and will be in session probably until Monday.—Columbia Register.

"On the Square."

At a recent communication of Jackson Lodge A. F. M., the following were elected officers:

B. J. Witherspoon, W. M.
J. S. Gladney, S. W.
T. H. Fairchild, J. W.
B. F. Miller, Treas.
E. C. Seest, Secy.

The White Bluff Lodge elected the following:

J. N. Estridge, W. M.
R. E. Jenkins, S. W.
U. M. Neal, J. W.
E. L. Hinson, Treas.
J. F. Kennington, Secy.

OUR SMALLPOX SCARE.

A Case of the Disease Said to be in Our Midst—The Population Loses Its Head—No Fears of an Outbreak However—The Patient Isolated and the Inmates of His Home Quarantined.

Since Wednesday last there has been considerable excitement in our town on account of the presence in our midst of a case of what the physicians think is smallpox. The victim of the disease is Julian, the 13-year-old son of J. B. Johnson, the druggist.

About the 4th of November he went to Atlanta for the purpose of having his eyes treated. He remained in the city two weeks and three days, attending a circus during his stay. On the 21st he left and going to Spartanburg staid there until the 24th, when he went to Charlotte, where he remained until the morning of the 27th, when he returned to his home, in fine health. On Saturday last, December the 4th, he complained of feeling unwell and was found to have some fever. This continued through Sunday and Monday morning several splotches appeared on his body. His parents, reading in the newspapers that smallpox was prevailing in Atlanta, sent for their physician, Dr. W. F. Strait, who responded. He found the boy with some fever and a slight sore throat. The next day, Tuesday, he called again and found several suspicious pustules on the body. He at once called in his partner, Dr. T. A. Crawford, but the disease had not progressed far enough to warrant either a certain opinion as to its nature. Tuesday morning there were other pustules on the body and Dr. R. Y. Murphy, of Edgemoor, who had treated smallpox cases in Kentucky, was invited to call and he at once pronounced the disease a modified case of smallpox. In the afternoon Dr. W. J. White, who is also familiar with the disease, was likewise invited to inspect the case, and he confirmed the diagnosis of Dr. Murphy. By this time a rumor had spread like wildfire that there was a case of smallpox in town and many of our citizens became as much alarmed as if an army had besieged the town. Everybody appeared on the streets and the more the matter was discussed the more alarmed the population became. At night a meeting of the board of health was held, when a committee of physicians, Drs. W. J. White, J. E. Massey and J. A. Meldau, was appointed to examine the patient the next morning and report to the board the nature of the disease.

The committee called the next morning and reported that the boy was afflicted with a case of smallpox, but in their opinion in modified form. In the meantime the family and servants of Mr. Johnson, as well as himself and several children who had visited the Johnson home, were quarantined in their respective homes. Mr. Johnson appreciated the necessity of such a precaution and announced that he would enforce the regulation on his premises; but as an extra precaution guards were placed in charge of the yard and lot.

The little victim of the disease has been placed in a comfortable house on the lot, about three hundred feet from any dwelling, where he is being attended by Mr. Porter Gaston, of Fishing Creek, Chester county, who had smallpox while in the army. The Johnson home has been thoroughly fumigated and all the inmates are as completely isolated from the community as if they were in prison. Dr. Strait has been vaccinated and when he calls to see his patient he enters a separate room, which is being constantly disinfected, dresses out and out in

Fits Cured

From U.S. Journal of Medicine
Prof. W. H. Pecke, who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any living Physician; his success is astonishing. We have heard of cases of so years' standing cured by him. He publishes a valuable work on this disease, which he sends with a large bottle of his absolute cure, free to any sufferers who may send their P. O. and Express address. We advise any one wishing a cure to address Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., New York

another suit, and washes with the proper materials.

Every precaution possible is being taken to prevent the disease from spreading and there positively is no fears of an outbreak. The excitement has subsided largely and affairs in town have assumed their normal condition.

There were rumors in town Thursday that Yorkville had quarantined against our town, but we are assured this is not true.

Great sympathy is felt here for Mr. Johnson and his family. Their friends can be of no help to them in their distress, but they fully appreciate how very necessary it is that every precaution be taken to keep down an outbreak of this loathsome disease.

Their boy is doing as well as could be expected. There seems to be no doubt as to the nature of his disease, but we understand Mr. Gaston, his nurse, says that if it is smallpox it is the lightest case he has ever seen.—Rock Hill Herald, Saturday.

Killed by a Freight.

Joe Cortney, colored, was instantly killed Saturday afternoon by the south bound freight train on the O. R. & C. Railroad. At the inquest by coroner Young, it was proved that Joe was subject to epileptic fits and that he often had them, and that when he felt the fit coming on he would sit down or lie down. Engineer Metcalf testified that he saw the object when he was about 350 yards away, but that he never discovered that it was a man till he got nearer, and that the down grade was so heavy that it was impossible to stop his train, and the pilot struck him and killed him at once. The accident occurred near the 44th mile post in Mr. J. P. C. Caskey's field.

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W. F. YOUNG.

July 28, 1897(1y)