

Partnership Notice.

We, the undersigned, have this day formed a partnership for the purpose of conducting a general merchandise business, under the firm name of McCall & Burch, and will as soon as possible remove from the present stand of J. G. McCall to the Hewitt building, where we will be pleased to serve our friends and patrons. Respectfully,

J. GREGG McCALL, J. O. S. BURG.

Darlington, S. C., August 1, 1890.

Call for a Straightout Convention.

COLUMBIA, S. C., August 15, 1890. The Conference held in the city of Columbia on the 10th and 11th of July, 1890, adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That when this Conference adjourns it adjourns to meet subject to the call of the president, and in the event that the August Convention refuses to make provision for the election of delegates to the September Convention by primary election, that the president call a meeting of this Conference, to be held before the September Convention, for the purpose of consulting together as to what course shall be pursued to preserve the existence of the regular Democratic party of South Carolina."

In pursuance of this resolution and in obedience to this mandate of the Conference, I hereby call a meeting of this Conference to re-assemble at the State House, in the city of Columbia, on Tuesday, August 26, 1890, at 8 o'clock P. M.

All members of the Conference and all others in sympathy with the objects and declared purposes of those then participating in said movement are hereby invited to attend. W. D. JOHNSON, President.

Well Merited Success.

The Columbia Register of August 14th has the following: "Mr. Waddy Thompson, of Darlington, who is engaged to take the position of local editor of the Register, paid a flying visit to Columbia Tuesday and returned home yesterday. He will assume the duties of his position on this paper on Monday."

"We congratulate both Mr. Thompson and the Register. We have known Mr. Waddy Thompson for several years both as a clever gentleman and a good newspaper man. As a writer he is clear and forcible, and as a news gatherer he is painstaking and thorough. He has lived in Darlington long enough to make us feel that we have some claim on him, and in his new field of labor we will ever think of him as a Darlington man and follow his success with pleasure."

A Dastardly Trick.

(Cheraw Reporter.)

A statement was made on our streets a few days ago that many of the prominent Democrats of Charleston, under the lead of Gen. McCrady, the author of the '83 box election law," had bolted from the party and organized a new party called "the Independent Republican party," and that a circular had been received showing this fact. Indeed, we heard that a prominent supporter of the "Tillman party" was proclaiming the existence of "startling news" on the faith of this circular.

It turns out that one of the most contemptible frauds of the campaign was in this way attempted to be perpetrated, for when the "circular" was run down and subjected to inspection, it was a copy of a paper gotten up while Charleston was under the rule of the vilest set of Republicans in the State, and all the best citizens of that city determined to support a ticket for Mayor and Aldermen which its eight "conservative" men on it, which ticket was gotten out by Independent Republicans who had become disgusted with their old party and desired to get rid of the horrible law. These citizens signed a paper stating their determination to vote for such a ticket. The very first name on the list was Edward McCrady, the father of the father of the '83 law, and, therefore, his grandfather. Then follow such names as Judge McGrath, Geo. W. Bryan, B. H. Rutledge, Edward McCrady, Jr., and other equally prominent living citizens, with such as Isaac Hayne, W. D. Porter, James Connor, L. D. Mowry, W. C. Bos and many others who have now long been dead. The paper had no date but looked to be new, and was in circulation as a new effort to disrupt the Democratic party. A good many here, not familiar with the political history of the State, were deceived by it and called upon an old Democrat to explain it. He did so, and as a personal friend of Gen. McCrady wrote him about it. Gen. McCrady replied, denying, of course, the whole charge. No decent party could resort to such a fraud as to besmirch the party from which it has seceded. No true Carolinian would for a single moment lend himself to such a base and unmanly measure. No Democrat would stoop to slander the dead patriots who fought the enemies of the State with all their might to save it from radical rule, or attempt to destroy the influence of the brave defenders of its best and highest interests.

Transcended Its Powers.

The August Convention, which was called for no other purpose than to decide whether the delegates to the September Convention should be elected by primary or convention, has transcended its powers, and, in addition to deciding against primary, has changed the constitution of the Democratic party and elected a new Executive Committee. Judge O'Neill, Harper and Johnson, three of the ablest jurists South Carolina ever had, have given their opinions against conventions, doing anything else than the delegates were given authority to do by the people who elected them. Without a single exception the people of every county in the State elected their delegates to the August Convention for the sole purpose of deciding whether the delegates to the September Convention should be elected by primary or convention, and the August Convention has disregarded the will of the people who created it; in other words, the convention has assumed that the agent is greater than the principal. The Anti-Tillman delegates in the convention, in consequence of the revolutionary action of the majority, withdrew from the convention, thinking that such action on their part was the only course to pursue in view of the positive instructions received from their county conventions. The withdrawing delegates have issued an address to the Democracy of the State giving their reasons for their action. Although the Anti-Tillmanites are in the minority, the minority is often in the right, and the weight of legal talent is on its side certainly this time. Col. James A. Hoyt, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, says that he is still chairman and intends to hold his position until the September Convention. All good Democrats, according to the highest authority and the constitution of the party, should give their allegiance to the old constitution and executive committee, and pay no attention to the provisions of the Tillman constitution or the orders of the Tillman executive committee.

The Line to Bennettville.

(News and Courier.)

The work on the extension of the Charleston, Sumter and Northern Road from Sumter to Bennettville, under the superintendence of Contractor R. S. Pringle, is being advanced without delay. Mr. Pringle has recently made arrangements for the hiring of one hundred convicts to do the work, and a stockade is now being built for their reception in Summing Pens township in Sumter county. The people in Marlboro and the portion of Darlington through which this road will run are looking forward to its completion with great interest. Heretofore they have been almost wholly cut off from Charleston, and, in fact, the whole State, and this line will give them the first regular communication with the market that they ever had. The line will also assist Charleston's business very much in every branch, besides bringing a great deal of cotton here that now goes to Norfolk, Wilmington and other ports to the north.

Peterson's Magazine.

"The Best for the Ladies," one only needs to look at the September number of "Peterson" to decide that it is the best magazine for ladies. The fashions are always accurate and novel, and the varied departments are kept up to the highest standard. Lovers of good literature will always find gratification for their tastes in the fiction, poetry and miscellaneous articles. This number has an illustrated article on Bamboo furniture, full of useful suggestions and artistic designs, and a paper on the preservation of Autumn leaves will delight all flower-lovers. Two serials are running, as unlike as they are original and interesting, and the short stories are all worthy of commendation. "Things Worth Knowing" is for the benefit of housekeepers this month, and Dr. Abram Livy has an article on children's diseases which every mother ought to read. Terms, Two Dollars a year. Address, Peterson's Magazine, 206 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

The State Fair.

On page 10 of the Premium List of the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society for the present year, will be found the offer of Premiums amounting in the aggregate to \$500, for the Counties making the best display of County Products, to be shown at the Fair, November 10, 1890. The requirements are: "To the County making the Best and Largest Display of Products grown or produced by residents of the County, Premiums will be awarded as follows: 1st Premium, \$250; 2nd Premium, \$150; 3rd Premium \$100. In all, \$500. All Grain must be shown in quantities not less than one-half bushel. The Judges making the award in this contest, will consider first, Quality; second, Quantity; third, Variety; and fourth, Arrangement. Articles for the County display will not count in the Individual Premiums."

I beg that you call special attention to this feature, and urge your County to be a competitor in the contest. Aside from the money involved, County pride should stimulate our farmers to enter heartily into the matter, and thus show the progress of Agriculture in our State. I take it that the most effective plan would be for the several County Alliances from the Sub-Alliances, to canvass the matter at an early day, and thus become organized, so that by the first of November each County will be able to know what will be shown, and what Railroad Station shipments will be made. Railroads require prepayment of freight, but upon its return to the original point of shipment, with the Certificate of the Secretary that the same had been on exhibition, the amount will be refunded. I will be pleased to furnish a copy of the Premium List to all who may apply to

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BY THE "PEA FALLOW."

Essay Read by E. E. Evans Before the Darlington Agricultural Society, August 12, 1890.

A fallow crop is at the foundation of all successful agriculture. The farmer who relies upon his barnyard and compost heap can reach but a small part of his farm, and where he uses very extensively the commercial fertilizers of the day he runs the risk of paying out a large amount for an uncertain return. To some extent he buys his crop before he sells it, with the balance sometimes on the wrong side.

The fallow crop is nature's mode of manuring and is a part all the world over of successful and intelligent farming. It was long the reproach and misfortune of Southern farming that we had no good fallow crop. Those of us whose memories go back some years will recall the rude weed fallow which we practiced very faithfully. This, while it yielded humus to the soil and was therefore valuable, was not followed by striking results, probably from the absence to any extent of nitrogen. At this very time we had a crop planted extensively for other purposes but whose value as a manure was not fully recognized. Sagacious farmers—notably Dixon, of Georgia—had observed the benefit of the pea and used it to some extent, while at the same time holding on to the old system of rest and weeds. The truth is the pea is not a perfect fallow crop. Unlike clover it is an annual and has to be renewed every year. It is of uncertain germination, the shell being soft; it is sometimes lost for want of proper moisture in the soil in the act of germinating. Again, when successfully grown it is very hard to plough under. The most beautiful operation which I have ever seen was the turning of clover ley, and the most annoying and vexatious the ploughing under of a luxuriant crop of pea vines. These disadvantages probably retarded the general use of the pea as a part of our farm economy; and it was not until the enthusiastic endorsement of this crop by Mr. Ruffin, the distinguished farmer and scientist, and more recently the splendid success of Dr. Ravenel—in what is known as the "Ravenel System," that attention has been drawn to the pea fallow, and it has now become under modifications suggested by experience a most valuable part of our improved system of farming.

How shall we use the pea as manure for our lands? The ideal plan would be to adopt the four field rotation as recommended by Mr. Ruffin and to give up a portion of the farm to this crop for the entire year. This would relieve the labour and anxiety of planting which now presses painfully upon the farmer at a most critical period. But as I do not practice this myself it would be in poor taste to recommend it to others, and to urge, as is often done, that in older countries where land is worth hundreds of dollars per acre it is foolish to give up a portion of the farm to a crop solely for the benefit of the land. The truth is we are spoiled by our splendid climate. We can here plant a pea crop after the grain has been harvested, and are thus tempted to save the use of our land; so that the cultivation of the pea for manure or for stock is limited to our out and to our corn fields.

How shall we plant peas with our corn? The temptation is to get as many peas as possible and this, I think, often leads to injury. I have seen a corn crop injured to more than the value of the peas by injudicious planting. If I can get one good row of peas in my corn rows, seven feet apart, I am satisfied, and he who attempts more than this runs the risk of losing more in his corn crop than he will gain in the improvement of his land. I have never been able to plant satisfactorily peas broadcast among my corn. Of course it is often done, but in my experience a depth of ploughing sufficient to cover the peas will be very apt to injure the corn.

How shall we plant our oat land in peas—broadcast or in the drill? This will be decided by convenience and the use for which the crop is intended. My own plan is to sow broadcast when possible, and when not, then in the drill from time to time as the vines are turned under or cut for forage? The latter is the general practice and is one of those modifications of which I have spoken, which relieves the problem of the management of the vine. If the purpose is to improve the land as rapidly as possible then the whole crop should be returned to the soil. But it is not economical. It is estimated that a good crop of peas, say two tons, contains over one hundred pounds of nitrogen—the equivalent in this element of nearly one ton of cotton seed meal. In this day of somewhat scientific farming, what would be thought of a farmer who would use that amount of a so poorly balanced manure? The practical result has been that there is very little difference in the subsequent crop where the vines have been cut or not, showing that the roots and stubble contain nitrogen enough. It is therefore good farm economy to save the vine for forage, the value of which would more than supplement this nitrogen with the other elements of plant food. But where the vines are to be cut not less than two bushels of seed should be planted. A very common practice is to sow a half bushel of peas and even less per acre, relying upon this with grass to make a forage crop. This generally succeeds and yields a large amount of valuable forage, but there are not pea roots and stubble enough for the improvement of the land. If the vine is left for manure, at what

stage shall it be ploughed under—green or dead? It is important that we should have correct views upon this point. In the first experiments made under the recommendation of Mr. Ruffin the vine was ploughed under by his advice in a green state, and I have been told by the older farmers resulted in complete failures. This is the usual treatment of a fallow crop, plants being thought richer in nitrogen when in that state. The pea was so used by Mr. Ruffin upon his lands in Virginia and is so treated upon the alluvial lands of Louisiana. Why did it fail with us? Obviously from a difference of soil. This indeed might have been expected. Even clover thus treated sometimes fails. Dana, in his "Muck Manual," which I read some years ago, discusses this question and earnestly recommended that the clover fallow should be ploughed under in a dry state even in the granite soils of New England. Green vegetation, says Dana, ferments and dry vegetation decays. Now it is this fermentation which produces an unhealthy condition of the soil, unless neutralized by strong alkalies, which do not exist in our sandy soils. It was therefore with good reason that Dr. Ravenel recommended that the pea should be ploughed under after it had dried upon the land, and this is now the universal practice.

Should the pea crop be manured? It is not usual to manure a fallow crop upon strong clay soils. Leguminous plants possess the power of appropriating plant food from the soil inaccessible to other classes of plants and it is upon this that their value as renovators depends. But there is a limit to this. It is very common for even strong soils to become clover sick and to refuse longer to grow the crop. It might therefore be expected that upon our light soils, so deficient in plant food, that the pea would soon exhaust the land if planted continuously without manure or rotation. I have seen upon my own farm, fields so peck sick that the plants would die soon after germination. The remedy for this is to manure with the ash elements. It seems unnecessary to furnish nitrogen in any form. How leguminous plants get their nitrogen is a point very much discussed and not yet settled by scientists. The late experiments of Sir John Lawes seems to establish the fact that they get it through their roots from the free nitrogen of the atmosphere permeating the soil. If this is correct this class of plants can never want for this precious element. Under the "Ravenel System" only the ash elements are furnished in a very crude state and splendid results have always followed.

I have thus presented some thoughts upon the leading points connected with pea culture without entering upon details which would be impossible in the limits of an essay. It is unnecessary for me to urge upon the farmers of this section to cultivate the pea as a renovator of our soils. If there is an idea which has taken strong hold upon the popular mind it is the value of the pea fallow. It is therefore important that the principles which underlie its use should be understood, and to throw some light upon it is the purpose of this essay. So strongly does this pea idea prevail that there is danger of its being carried too far. The farmer who would now allow his out or rested fields to grow up weeds would be thought quite behind the age. This may be an error under certain circumstances. Weeds cost nothing and they certainly furnish a large amount of humus and are therefore valuable, and one at least with which I am familiar does contain a certain amount of nitrogen. The rag weed has long been regarded as good stock food and a good farmer, Mr. J. W. Watts, uses it extensively as forage.

Now what will feed an animal will certainly feed the lower organism of a plant and we might safely regard it as a fertilizer. I was pleased to see in the last State Agricultural Report, a most valuable work, an analysis of this weed by Professor Burney, from which it seems that one ton, a fair yield per acre, contains about seven dollars worth of fertilizing matter. This is of course potential and would hardly be realized, but is a pretty good return for the use of the land. This weed grows abundantly on my farm and I have several time allowed it to take my fields when not able to plant peas and in so doing I do not admit that I was guilty of poor farming. I do not mean to institute a comparison between the rag weed and the pea in fertility, but only to give a crumb of comfort to farmers who, like myself, are not always able to do what they know is best.

I have thus far treated of the fertility of the pea. Allow me to draw your attention for a moment to its mechanical effect upon the soil. Every one who has observed the growth of peas must have remarked the mellow and friable condition in which it leaves the soil. This results from the growth and expansion of its large rootage forcing the particles of earth apart. Nor is this confined to the soil proper but extends deep into the subsoil. Dr. Ravenel used to say that he wanted no better subsoil plow than the pea. My attention was drawn several years ago to a remarkable instance of this effect. One of the best farmers of the county told me that he had been disappointed in his pea crop. He had planted a part of a field in peas, ploughed them in dry and to his surprise and disappointment the bad effect upon the oat crop was seen to the row. Now the land upon which this occurred was familiar to me, a stiff pipe clay with a most tenacious subsoil, just the sort of land which did not admit of subsoiling without underdrainage. My friend's land had been injured by injudicious, though unintentional subsoiling, with the bad effect which might have been expected. A remarkable illustration of the root power of the pea.

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