

ENDORSES TILLMAN'S SPEECH.

Pertinent Comments of the Leading Newspaper of Kentucky.

Louisville-Courier Journal.

Senator Tillman sometimes conceals some sound ideas in a tempest of billingsgate. The result is that his audiences do not always take him seriously. His speech in the senate Monday was vigorous, but it was not billingsgate, and it contained sound ideas which were not concealed. It is a speech which even persons least friendly toward the South Carolinian may take seriously. From the reports of the scene in the senate during its delivery the senate itself took the drubbing very seriously. That is as it should be. The words of Mr. Tillman should be marked, learned and inwardly digested by the members of that "most august deliberative body in the world." That is, the greater part of them should be, since once or twice the speaker lapsed into prejudiced utterance. The advice given was wholesome; the political ideals expressed were for the most part worth while; the stirring he gave the senate for its servility and its cowardice was timely.

The substance of the Tillman speech was a protest against executive usurpation and congressional submission. From a strong arm of the national system the congress has been reduced by Theodore Roosevelt to a simple machine for recording his own will. Senators and representatives are too deficient in courage to resist his encroachments which amount to the conversion of a great republic into an autocracy. Incidentally, it was a protest against a spirit in the legislators and in the people, too, to yield weakly to Theodore Roosevelt's lust for power and to be taken in by his professions of unrivalled purity, incomparable honesty and inspired infallibility.

If the Roosevelt regime has shown one thing it has disclosed one weakness of our system of government. When our constitutional polity was adopted some of the Europeans saw at once an experiment that would fail. Nearly all the sceptics based their doubts of our government, however, upon the chances of the capture of the sovereignty by a hysterical mob, outwitting the conservatives. To most of them nothing seemed further from possible than the transformation of a system of so many checks and balances into a one-man system. Thomas Babington Macaulay, who saw visions of mob rule, would rub his eyes to see the autocratic tendency of the Roosevelt method. He might figure it out that Roosevelt derives his strength to accomplish what he does simply by appealing to the mob and that he is but an autocratic personification of the rabble. His autocratic tendency, as distinct from republicanism submerged by the mob, is plain, nevertheless. It is a remarkable, but not pleasing, perversion of the American ideal.

The situation demands just such a treatment as Mr. Tillman gave it. The members of both houses need just such a reprimand as he gave them. The cowardice of the representatives and senators of the majority is a public scandal.

MAKE CORN RAISING PAY.

Here Are Some Rules That are Interesting and Valuable.

As grain crops go, corn is a comparatively new one; and thence offers correspondingly greater opportunity for improvement under careful methods as well as for rapid deterioration under careless methods.

The best and most practical method of breeding it up is systematically to plant seed from a single ear in a single row, to plant other rows the same way, and then weigh the yield from each row separately; then keep a record of each row, select the best for next year and so on from year to year, to the end that the seed corn may have a pedigree that is definite and a true guide. From the few rows planted, seed will be selected for the increased plot that is to supply seed for the larger fields. Those who want to pursue this kind of breeding will be able to get from their state experiment stations or the department of agriculture at Washington bulletins that explain the plan in detail. The next best plan is to select the seed ears in the field, and to observe whether the stalks that bore extra fine ears had choice locations, rich spots, much room, etc., which might make a large yield was not really in the seed the ears came from. If we wait till the corn is in the crib, we cannot do more than select good ears, irrespective of whether they grow on specially favored stalks. But even such selection as this will be better than none.

If one does not have corn from which really good seed can be select-

ed, a strain that is a good yielder, he ought to buy good seed. He ought also to test his seed before planting, to learn whether it is going to sprout well and grow with vigor. Much will sprout well and not have vigor to grow well. Skips in the row cost just as much to cultivate as a like space in which corn is growing, and produce nothing. The unshaded soil may even be injured by being exposed unnecessarily to the sun.

Much is said and written about deep breaking for corn. It is one of those questions that will never be settled, for the reason that some types of land need one treatment and some need another. It is rare that deeper than six-inch plowing will pay; and sometimes it will be detrimental. If land is plowed much deeper than formerly, plow in the fall. Loose soils and bottom lands can be plowed deeper than black prairie soils. Never go off to dinner or to the house for the night before all the land that has been plowed that half day is harrowed. Later, the use of the disc will put the seed bed in better condition, but do not abuse the land by turning it up to the air and sun to dry out before it is harrowed. The seed bed is more important than usually supposed. Make it fine and mellow. It does not take much work, as harrows and disc cover much ground at a time.

Planting should not be too deeply in spring, when the soil is cold and much moisture is in the ground. At that time the warm soil is the layer next to the surface. Deep planting is also bad when the seed bed has not been well prepared. Some sort of drill or mechanical planter should be used, since all seed, will be put in the ground approximately the same distance. Then there is either a stand or not a stand. The grower will not be in doubt as to whether he should replant; but he may be in doubt if the seed is dropped by hand and some are deep and some are shallow, so that a part meet favorable weather conditions and come up, while the rest do not come up. Watch the drill carefully for some time, and dig out enough hills to know how deep the planting is being done. It will be a costly corn crop if labor saving implements are not used for cultivation; and they can be used with greater success when the rows are straight, so that the cultivators can run so close to the young stalks that very little uncultivated earth will remain in the drill.

Many neglect corn for two or three weeks after the seed is planted. Meanwhile grass and weeds get well started. Harrows or weeders, or both should, in most cases, be run over the corn before the young plants get out of the ground, and even later—just as long as the corn is not injured too much by such working. The young grass and weeds will be easily killed and a crust is not allowed to form over the young corn plants to make it hard for them to get out of the ground. Furthermore, this stirring of the soil prevents evaporation of moisture from the land. In the hands of a careless workman a team of mules and a harrow can do much damage to corn after it is out of the ground. Suppose a thoughtless workman permits cornstalks to catch in the harrow and drag out the young corn row after row. Such a thing has been done more than once but such a laborer is not fit for the work. The writer knows of one good farmer who thinks it pays him to plant corn considerably thicker than he wants it to grow, so that he can harrow it over and over as often as he likes, uprooting part of the young crop, but leaving enough for a good stand. While his plan has its drawbacks, it also has its good points.

Corn is a very shallow rooted plant. Most of its feeding roots are near the surface of the soil. Roots also feed only at their ends, and when they are cut off they cannot nourish the plant much till new feeding hair-like roots put out to gather the food. These facts show that deep cultivation during the early life of the crop may not be injurious; while deep cultivation later, when the roots have spread across from row to row near the surface of the soil, cut off the roots just at the time the crop needs to be fed well. Do not make the work stock do unnecessary hard work by running the cultivating implement deeper than is necessary to keep the ground clean. Some growers act as though they thought they would lay by the corn well if they run the cultivating implements deep; and this means that they are laying by the crop by cutting its roots off. Yet, cultivation must be deep enough to kill grass and weeds, even if the corn roots are pruned off.

Corn should not be raised on the same land year after year, for several reasons. It is a rank feeder, and the land should have raised some grass crop, or a crop of clover or peas, to put it in the condition for

making a large yield of corn. It is rare, indeed, that those who do not rotate their crops think it pays them to raise corn. The question goes further than to supply the corn with plant food. When corn is raised on the same land year after year, insect enemies get to making their homes in the land; and they are here to destroy the next crop as far as they can. Depredations from insects are accepted by the average farmer and drouth is, on the supposition that these things are sent by nature and that man can do nothing about them. But the farmer can rest assured that if he raises corn on the same land year after year he is turning his field into a hatching of enemies that will devour his crop, and this injury is far more serious than generally supposed. If the crop does not do well, the matter is dismissed with the supposition that the weather or the soil was unfavorable. The corn grower should certainly be a grower of clover or peas, and one of these crops should be grown on the land the first year preceding the corn.

The time will come in the south when corn will be planted in checks and cultivated both ways, as it is in the great corn states. Many things may contribute to make this impracticable now, but some of these things can be done away with by a man who goes at it right. Very shallow plowing that is broadcast or plowing in narrow beds make it impracticable to check corn and cultivate it both ways; so many steep hillsides or ditches, also irregular outlines of the field, or stumps or trees on the land, and the land may be so poor that thicker seeding will be preferable. It will be noted, however, that really good farming cannot be done with such drawbacks; and they ought to be done away with even if the corn is not planted in checks. Some of these drawbacks seem more serious than they are, because checking is rare in the south and those who have not that it is impossible. Here and there corn is checked with success in the south, and under conditions which other farmers say make checking corn impracticable. Corn is grown cheaply when checked; and a somewhat smaller crop would make as much money as a larger crop grown by a more expensive method.

The Williamson method of corn growing has its advocates; but it remains to be learned whether the same amount of plant food and labor used by more common methods will not get as large a yield, if not a larger one. Food the crop must have; and cultivation makes plant food that is not yet available turn into available forms. In other words, a good cultivation is something of a substitute for fertilizer; and working the soil well before the crop comes up is another substitute. That is one reason that harrowing corn is so helpful. It makes grass and weeds sprout and then kills them; but it also prepares food for the crop, and that is the important thing. The cry will go up that so much working of the soil is expensive; but that will depend on whether the working is of an expensive or an inexpensive kind—by men or by mules. Working with mules can be made expensive, too, if the implements are of a kind that one must keep going around and around the row, instead of a kind that will finish one row or one middle at each trip across the field. Much cultivation at so small an expense that the cultivation can be repeated frequently should be the aim of the corn grower.

When the corn is cultivated in ridges more surface is exposed for the sun and air to draw moisture from; and the rule will be that if the previous working of soil has been what it should have been, flat cultivation will be better. Still, this is conditional, it should be noted. For the same reason that cultivating a crop in ridges is detrimental, planting in narrow beds is detrimental in dry weather—it dries out more than is good for the crop. Deep plowing would be worth more than narrow beds, provided the field is otherwise well drained, in the opinion of the writer; but there are many good, practical men who hold the opposite view, and only the future will show whether all cannot succeed by methods by which a few are succeeding now.

There are many years when cotton farmers make no money; but who can point to a year when corn raised by rational methods did not pay a reasonable profit? There is always a market for it, and bears do not manipulate the market to the loss of the grower. The market is found right on one's own farm and on the surrounding farms. Bears cannot mix up with it. When the stover is saved by rational methods—not by pulling the leaves—the stover has as much feed value as the grain; and the south is slow to realize this. If that idea is

made one of the working rules of the farm management, it will not be difficult to see how a corn crop will yield more net profit than a cotton crop. More net profit, mind you; we do not care for the gross profit. It is the money that a farmer can lay away that he should be interested in. A cotton crop makes a big income, but the big outgo is right there beside the big income. With corn under good management, there is relatively more profit left behind; so much profit that, while corn will not replace cotton as the great southern crop, it ought to be a close second and help to make cotton raising more gainful. At least, there will be none to dispute that the raising of more cotton bodes ill for the south, while the raising of more corn gives bright promise of a more prosperous south and more fairly farmers. Home raised corn will keep money at home, that now goes to enrich other sections; it will keep money right on the farm where the corn is raised in the south.—Progressive Farmer.

THE POLITE DOG.

What the Animal Has Now Been Taught to Accomplish in Paris.

Quite an unusual sight was witnessed today on the race course at Vincennes. Instead of steeplechasers or trotting horses, with their multi-colored jockeys, the passage, or enclosure, was taken up by the curious collection of police dogs and their masters or trainers. The "Club Francaise du Chien de Defence, de Garde, et de Police," an entirely private association of amateurs, had obtained permission to use the race course for a series of experiments to which the police authorities were invited. The ground was frozen, and the immense plan of the largest race course near Paris looked like a piece of some remote desert. About fifty persons in all, including three fashionable ladies, had come to witness the trials, which were to consist, first, in a test of the dog's obedience and intelligence. He was to walk obediently beside his master held in a leash, and then loose, to explore the ground, sit guard, crouch down to concealment, or bark at the word of command. Rolf was told to bark, and a deep rhythmic sound came out of his throat three times, as if he understood exactly how many times were sufficient for the occasion. All the dogs went through the first part of the programme with success.

The most interesting trials were the man-hunt and arrest of supposed burglars. Two men were dressed up as Apaches. They were thoroughly padded from head to foot with mattress-like coverings, and well did they need them, for the dogs took their business in earnest. Each man also wore an iron mask and a steel helmet, as well as iron gloves. A dog was first told to escort one of his prisoners to a given place. He marched close at his side, and woe to the man if he made the slightest attempt to escape. The dog would make fierce bound at him and throw him down in an instant, catching, as a rule, the mattress padding where it was thickest, and burying his teeth viciously in the man's supposed flesh. An armed attack was then represented. A man, representing a burglar, crouched with his back against a wall, stood concealed, armed with a club and a revolver. The trainer came along with his dog, and was not supposed to see the man in concealment. The imaginary burglar suddenly pounces out at him, fires a shot, and catches the man by the throat. The police-dog, however, hardly gives him time. In an instant he seizes the man and bowls him over, belaboring him at the same time with his teeth. The man is allowed to use his club as best he can on the dog's back, but the animal easily has the better of him, and the blows only stimulate his vigor.

Only one animal out of nineteen, a German sheep-dog, refused battle, and acted the coward. All the rest performed their part with powerful conviction, and it may well be surmised that a real burglar, though armed with club and revolver, would have fared very badly under such an attack. Seven dogs especially distinguished themselves by their clever and almost scientific behavior. The best of all seemed to be a big mastiff called Garcon, who has been for some time already in the police service of Roubaix. Prizes have been offered by M. Clemenceau, the premier, who takes great interest in these experiments, and by M. Lepin, prefect of police, who was represented at Vincennes by the police commissary of Joinville. The prizes vary from 205 francs to 75 francs. M. Hennion, chief of the detective bureau will be present at the next trials. Further experiments will also be made with ambulance dogs, in which the war office takes great interest.—London Telegraph.

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