

WHEAT GROWERS.

Will Meet Again Next Year at the Same Place.

SENATOR TILLMAN SPEAKS.

A Permanent Organization Effected. The Attendance Not Very Large. But There Was Much Interest.

The Wheat Growers Convention met in Greenwood on Tuesday of last week and was called to order by Mr. S. H. McGee, editor of the Index. Congressman A. C. Latimer was made permanent chairman and the convention declared ready for business. All present were considered members of the convention. The feature of the convention was an address by Mr. C. H. Jordan of Georgia, which is published elsewhere. It was resolved to make the organization a permanent one.

It was resolved that the organization be named "The Wheat Growers Association of South Carolina," that the next meeting be held at Greenwood on August 15th, 1900 at 2:30 o'clock p. m.

That the officers of the association be a president, vice president, a secretary and an executive committee, consisting of the president of the association and one member from each congressional district, whose duty it shall be to arrange the places and times of meetings.

That the discussions of the association be strictly confined to wheat growing and diversified farming.

That all persons interested in the success of the agricultural interests of the State be required to attend the meetings of the association and that each county be heretofore requested to appoint double as many delegates as they are entitled to represent in both houses of the general assembly.

That a meeting of each county seat in the State is hereby called for the first Monday in August, 1900, for the purpose of selecting delegates to the next annual meeting of the association and that the members of this committee are authorized to arrange for same.

That Messrs. A. C. Latimer and S. H. McGee be appointed to arrange for the next meeting of the association as relates to discussion, etc.

That the thanks of the association be extended to the press of the State for bringing the association to a successful organization.

The speaking Wednesday morning was held in the grove surrounding the court house. Senator Waller presided, and the first speaker was Congressman Latimer, who devoted the opening of his speech to a discussion of the necessity for the diversification of crops.

He told of Secretary Wilson's interest in the growing of grasses and the practicability of this industry in connection with cattle growing in this State. Secretary Wilson had told the South Carolina farmers that he would upon application send seed for grasses to be used in reclaiming worn out lands.

Mr. Latimer then took up rural mail delivery and the attendant benefits to the farmers. Ten deliveries had been established in this district. He explained fully the working and plan of the rural delivery system.

Branching off to subjects political, Mr. Latimer discussed the monopoly question, paying particular attention to the proposed subsidy of ships which he opposed vehemently. His conclusion of the monopoly issue was that the farmers must also combine.

The Philippine war was denounced as contrary to the principles of our government. Mr. Latimer raked the administration's policy most vigorously, and his line of thought was well received by the crowd, who interjected occasional applause.

Senator Tillman was introduced as the "head-centre" of the farmers' movement. The senior senator was brought forward "unmuzzled to gaze upon whatever topic he may choose."

Senator Tillman started with a pleasant reference to Abbeville and father Edgfield. "No county," said he, "has a better pedigree." He told of the fight for Greenwood county and referred pleasantly to the town of Greenwood and its growth.

He paid a compliment to Greenwood's citizenship, but he took up the white-capping which makes people afraid to sleep at night within five miles of the court house. This he denounced bitterly. He told of the Phoenix riot and said he didn't blame the white people and the people took it for granted that he would have been here if I would then.

"If I had been here I would then have gone with you. I have never yet failed to uphold the banner of white supremacy against the devil, the world and the Radicals."

The Tolberts he denounced, but the election riots are over and inoffensive negroes should be let alone and be given protection. If you want to uproot the snake and kill it, go and kill the Tolberts (cheers). But don't bother poor negroes who have nothing to do with the Tolberts. Don't abuse the poor black devils. The race problem is coming to the front in the United States. This Jewett woman has come to Charleston and taken the Baker family to Boston, the centre of devilry.

By allowing the thoughtless, lawless men to whip the negroes, you give ammunition to your enemies in the North. This anarchy will spread to Edgfield and Abbeville. You are masters, and while we must make the negroes let our politics and women alone, but they must not be beaten and abused.

If this thing continues, you will be deprived of labor by an exodus of negroes and you must make the negro respect you and keep his place, but you cannot afford to whip and kill negroes in this cowardly way. At present the Yankees are disposed to let us alone except to cut down our representation because we've disfranchised the negroes, but such affairs will give them a chance to interpose federal authority. I beg you, I plead with you to rise as one man and put down this devilment. (Loud cheers.) Some one may say "You'll lose votes." I don't care if I do. I don't want your votes if you are such cowards as to uphold this lawless

Senator Tillman then took up the

GOOD ADVICE.

A Speech that Every Farmer Should Read and Study.

THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY.

Mr. C. H. Jordan, a Distinguished Georgia Farmer, Delivers an Instructive and Interesting Address.

The following is the speech of Mr. C. H. Jordan, of Georgia, before the Wheat Growers' Convention:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: There is no occasion which is to me more enjoyable and no compliment which I esteem more highly than the privilege of talking with the farmers of my country. In the discussion of those problems, the solution of which is essential to prosperity in our future farm work, a subject is presented in which we are now most vitally interested. Conditions which did not suggest themselves a decade ago are becoming serious and formidable at the present time. While personally a stranger to the most of you I feel that my own interests are identical with yours and that we are all engaged in a common cause.

In advocating a revolution in our farming methods I shall not suggest the adoption of anything which has not heretofore been successfully undertaken, and will give no advice which is not capable of practical application. It is quite apparent to any casual observer that our system of doing business is decidedly contrary to that which existed during the days of our greatest prosperity and consequent independence.

There was a time, not so far back in the past when the farmers of the South supplied the population of the towns and cities with the necessities of life from the varied products of their farms.

At the present time a large majority of our farming classes are helplessly dependent upon the merchants for supplies not only for themselves, but for their stock as well. The heavy staple supplies which the merchants handle are grown in the far West and the proceeds of the cotton crop of the South, which should represent the surplus money crop of the farm, is paid out to the farmers of the West. We are enriching only those producers, but the railroad, wholesale and retail dealers through whose hands these goods must pass before reaching us, and who charge a full commission all along the line. The crop out of which we are expected to pay for these supplies is sold at a figure below the cost of production, and there can be but one result to us from the continuance of such a system of doing business.

A GREAT AGRICULTURAL STATE.

The great State of South Carolina possesses as great a degree of diversified resources as any State in the Union. There is not a farm in your State which cannot by a proper method of diversified planting, under an intensive system of culture, be made self-supporting. The farmers of your State must realize that every pound of supplies which they purchase in the open markets is produced by other farmers in distant sections of the country who labor under greater difficulties than those with which we have to contend.

When Southern farms were self-sustaining open accounts were the only evidence of indebtedness, and a farmer's word was as good as gold. Sharp, shrewd business men of the world saw that there were fortunes to be made out of the cotton crop if the farmer could be induced to produce it in large quantities.

The Western people saw an opportunity for building granaries and packing houses to supply the South with food which we could be induced to turn our attention entirely to growing cotton. Big railroad magnates saw a grand opportunity to increase dividends, multiply their rolling stock and otherwise fatten on the freights to be obtained by transporting heavy and costly supplies from the West for the Southern cotton grower during the spring and summer.

In the fall millions of cotton bales would be turned over to them for carriage to the seaports or Northern markets, and a second whack had at the great Southern industry.

The stock raisers of Kentucky and Tennessee were pleased at the bright prospect of supplying for the future the heart of the Southland, where all that was needed to make a man rich was a piece of land planted in cotton, with a Negro and a Kentucky mule to plough it.

Guano manufacturers saw at once that plant foods in enormous quantities would have to be supplied to keep up the fertility of the cleanly cultivated fields, and that the investment would be a good one. Cotton expositions were held all over the country and the white staple crowned king.

It has taken twenty years to whip the fight, but the intense greed of the world has done the work, and to-day the old king lies half dead in the ditch, while broken and disappointed mourners gaze upon the long trail of a disappointed past. While the farmer has lost in the struggle the country at large has developed and increased its wealth steadily each year.

I have no criticism to make of the farmer for so largely producing cotton, even with the costly use of commercial fertilizers, when the business was a lucrative one. But we face conditions today which are serious and which make impossible the future wholesale production of cotton as a means of developing rural prosperity. In the rich, alluvial lands of the Southwest, in the rich, alluvial lands of the valleys of the Mississippi, the extensive plains of Texas and Southern Oklahoma, cotton is being grown on an average of one bale per acre, without the use of fertilizers. The farmers of your own State after using annually hundreds of thousands of tons of fertilizers can barely average half a bale per acre. With these heavy odds against us and commerce annually increasing in the Southwest, we will be forced to change our present system of farming. The solution of the problem by which we are to-day confronted must be largely determined by the efforts of each individual who is directly engaged in the production of cotton—and who, by rea-

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MORE SOLDIERS WANTED.

A Call Made for Ten Additional Infantry Regiments.

MANY WHIPPED.

Peaceable Negroes Terrorized by Bands of Whitecaps.

FLEETO SWAMP AND TOWNS.

The Governor Appealed to by Sheriff of Greenwood Who Can't Preserve Order in the County.

A special to Columbia State from Greenwood says: A portion of this county between Greenwood and Phoenix has for more than a week past been terrorized by a gang of so-called whitecaps engaged in whipping Negroes. The whitecaps began Monday night a week ago and entered the houses of several negroes who were taken out and whipped. Since then this performance has been several times repeated and the Negroes are badly frightened. The object of the whitecaps is to drive off Negro tenants in order to secure control at low prices of valuable farm lands in that section of the county which is rented to Negroes by the white landlords.

There is no political foundation for the troubles and the offenders are said to belong to a low class of whites. The Negroes have taken to the woods and swamps at night to avoid the visitation of the gang and many of the colored people have come to Greenwood, some of them bringing all their possessions and refusing to go back home. Inoffensive Negroes are said to have been whipped and they have told of their contacts with white friends here but are afraid to talk openly. So far as known none have left this county but few are anxious to remain in the community. The better class of people deplore the occurrences and until now the matter has been kept quiet, but today the sheriff wired the governor for assistance, stating his inability to control the situation.

It does not seem to be the object of the gang to seriously injure the Negroes. They simply want them to leave the community in order that the lands may be rented by white tenants. It is a fine farming section producing good crops but is thickly settled by Negroes although the colored population was somewhat thinned out immediately after the election riots last November. The Negroes are now very badly scared and the object of the whitecaps has been very nearly attained. This is the version of the story as gained from Greenwood men.

A large number of that section told today that he had his Negroes sleep in his barn for protection and that the colored population is terrorized. Two hundred Negroes from that vicinity spent Saturday night in Greenwood to avoid the visitation of the whitecaps. The same masterly inactivity which characterized the sheriff's office in the November riots hangs over that office in this instance and nothing has yet been done.

TILLMAN CONDEMNES IT.

A special dispatch from Greenwood to The Greenville News says:

In connection with the whitecapping situation in this county, Solicitor Sease is in town, and has wired the attorney general to come up and investigate the matter.

Senator Tillman is here. Alluding to the subject, he said that he did not censure the people for the Phoenix riots, but that this was entirely past. "I do not advise you to kill the Tolberts," he said; "but if you have to exterminate anybody, don't punish these poor devils of Negroes."

"The time will soon be when this race question will shake this country from centre to circumference. Anarchy, once begun, is like fire in the woods. You are dominant, your own civilization, your self-respect, demands some-thing to do about this trouble. Keep up this trouble, and you give powder to your enemies in the north, you injure your country, and if this trouble continues, you will drive every laborer you have out of this section."

"I beg you, I entreat you, I plead with you, to rise as one man and put a stop to this trouble."

Some one would say he would lose votes by it. He didn't care if he did. He didn't want the votes of men who would do such a thing, and if he didn't speak out he would be unworthy to represent anybody and the people ought to retire him.

Fort Lower Shocked.

Fort Lower was shocked Thursday by what is said to have been the suicide of Mrs. S. W. Reep, who it seems shot three Norwegian vessels who were wrecked in the Carrabelle hurricane. There were about 45 men. Those who do not ship on other vessels from this port will be sent home by their respective consuls. The Germ will later bring to Pensacola the crews of the Italian bark wrecked in the storm. One Italian vessel had been loaded for five months, but her crew deserted and another one could not be procured.

Carriage Fell in River.

A carriage containing six persons was precipitated into White river Thursday night as it was being driven aboard a ferry boat at Washington. The dead were Repp, who was drowned. The dead were Mrs. Albert Hensell, four Hensell children and Miss Amy Dillon. The horse had just stepped aboard the ferry boat when the hawser parted and the boat swung out, dropping the carriage with its occupants into the river.

Wrecked in a Hurricane.

The steamer Germ arrived at Pensacola Thursday afternoon with the crew of three Norwegian vessels who were wrecked in the Carrabelle hurricane. There were about 45 men. Those who do not ship on other vessels from this port will be sent home by their respective consuls. The Germ will later bring to Pensacola the crews of the Italian bark wrecked in the storm. One Italian vessel had been loaded for five months, but her crew deserted and another one could not be procured.

MANY WHIPPED.

Peaceable Negroes Terrorized by Bands of Whitecaps.

FLEETO SWAMP AND TOWNS.

The Governor Appealed to by Sheriff of Greenwood Who Can't Preserve Order in the County.

MORE SOLDIERS WANTED.