

The Barnwell People.

W. M. HOLMES, Editor & Proprietor

LARGEST COUNTY CIRCULATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1909.

BEHIND TIMES.

It was generally expected and predicted that the Legislature would wind up its work and adjourn sine die on Saturday. The House finished its task in ample time to quit soon enough for its members to get home for good to their dundee dinners, but the Senate was still in the grass with the appropriation and supply and prohibition bills to be heard out. So the Senate took a recess from Saturday noon until Tuesday evening, with the House must needs rest until Tuesday evening, so the General Assembly of 1909 has broken the 40 days session limit that has been the rule since the adoption of the present constitution.

Differences of opinion and performance arose last week between the prohibition and local option Senators and much speaking and filibustering followed. The way was blocked against the passage of the finance bill and so the law makers work over time this week.

The prohibitionists of the Senate gave notice that they will not consent to allow a vote as to final adjournment until after the prohibition bill passed by the House shall have been voted on by the Senate. No doubt all sides are tired of the long stay in Columbia and an agreement is sure to be quickly reached that will allow them to get home, bringing their records and, perhaps, undecided issues.

To Senator Gary, in our decided opinion, belongs the credit of having made the most sensible and statesmanlike speech yet delivered at this session of Congress. He has shown himself a man of sound judgment, clear foresight and unflinching courage. It has been a weary time since the United States Senate has heard so much sense in so short a time and he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has set the fossils and Jehus of that body to thinking, and if in his retirement, for a time, to private life Mr. Gary will be an opportunity offers, into that new, mischievous and impudent movement, "The Southern Commercial Congress," he will give his State fresh cause to be proud of him, new reason to put her trust in him, as of the metal and calibre of the men who made her great in the old days.

You have made good, Mr. Gary. The saddest pictures we have ever seen were sent to us last week by some Northern society. They were made from photographs of child workers in cotton mills. It was pitiful to see the slim bodies, lined faces and hopeless eyes of the girls, the tough countenances of the boys.

They were in keeping with the words of an old time up country friend who visited us a few weeks ago. He said: "I built, operated and owned one cotton mill eight years and was President and Treasurer of another for the same length of time. So I know all about the cotton mill business. I sold out and quit, and when I did so I advised the people who had been working in those mills to quit and get back to the farms if they had any eye or hope for the future of their children. Now I am farming and selling goods."

Compulsory education is recommended by the mill owners as the remedy for the wrong done children of tender years by requiring them to work long hours in heated, damped rooms than the hands that make the cotton. The children are made white slaves that the far off owners of the mills may ride in automobiles and play golf and get divorces.

The colored article, "Take the treatment," is published for the sole and separate benefit of women folks. Men need no such advice.

There is good in every thing. Even the malarial mosquito has served the fortunate purpose of keeping down the number of cotton mills in lower South Carolina.

We had expected and hoped to give today a summary of the work of the Legislature, but the hitch in its proceedings gives us a week's rest from sifting the wheat of acts out of the chaff of words.

"This is a good time to get out of debt and to stay there." We are not going to name the man that said that for he was speaking of his own business, but the success that has crowned his life work has proven his wisdom.

Perhaps our Legislature in repealing the lien law has only anticipated the work of the boll weevil. The Georgia State entomologist says that the enemy has reached the middle of the State of Mississippi, and will get to Georgia in four years.

As the repeal of the lien law does not go into effect until January 1st, 1910, all concerned have the remainder of this year to adjust their businesses to the changed conditions that are coming. Shall we make or receive suggestions?

We don't know whether the Biblical account of the building a tower at Babel was a fact of history or a parable of instruction, but from the confusion of tongues and ideas in the debates in the Legislature we are constrained to think it the unvarnished record of an unassessable occurrence. History repeats itself.

W. J. Bryan is in greater demand than ever as a lecturer. He has already made contracts that promise him an income of \$125,000 for this year. He will speak at many places he has never visited in previous tours and campaigns. If the people want him to be a candidate for President in 1912 he will accept the nomination.

Judge Taft will be inaugurated one week from today with exceeding pomp. In the procession there will be 25,000 marchers, including some 50,000 soldiers from the returned battle front, many white and nine colored companies and a squad of the vanishing Indians. The address of the following President will outline his policy for the next four years.

A sensible movement has been started in the Atlantic coast States from North Carolina to New England to stop, if possible, the emigration of their native born citizens to the West. By aid of newspaper and magazine advertising the beginners of this good sense policy believe they can convince departing ones that there are better opportunities at home than they can find toward the setting sun. The eyes of South Carolina still stare straight toward Europe.

Years ago a venerable visitor sat talking of old times with us and looking out of the West window of the section laughingly remarked: "I've seen an acre of men all fighting at the same time down toward the White Oak Spring. Every one of them had his fist raised, but they were crowded together so close that not one of them could hit a flea."

Reading the proceedings of the Legislature in the daily papers suggests similar circumstances in the capital.

"I shall let cotton alone this year, plant corn and peas and all kinds of food crops besides giving more attention to hogs and poultry," said a wise man to us not long ago. "There are every day reasons for my adopting that policy, and the usual one that there is sure to be in the near future war between the United States and Japan. It cannot be long avoided, though it may be postponed, and there will be need for all the provisions the country can make for the support of the soldiers and sailors on the fighting line. That war will put king cotton on the beggar roll while it lasts, and send the prices of bread and meat up to Confederate values."

"In Spite of Hard Times the South's Attractive Field for Investments: Drawing the World Capital for Our Benefit."—*Florence Times.*

You never made a worse mistake in all your days, esteemed young brother Ayer. Capital comes here as it goes any where for its own benefit, and the South is the favored field for promoters now, because all other Northern fields have been worked out, or because the people there have cut their eye teeth and are too wise to be easily bamboozled. Capital from abroad, always travels with a bond or mortgage security protecting it, same as a robber takes a pistol.

GOOD FOR GARY.

Senator F. B. Gary made a speech last week that demonstrated his fitness for a seat from South Carolina in the Senate of the United States, and that will cause many to regret that his term of service will end on March 4th. His argument was against immigration, not because all other Northern fields have been worked out, or because the people there have cut their eye teeth and are too wise to be easily bamboozled. Capital from abroad, always travels with a bond or mortgage security protecting it, same as a robber takes a pistol.

Referring to the efforts of the South to encourage immigration, Senator Gary said: "I take occasion to say just here, lest I be misunderstood, that I am in common with many other Southerners, would welcome to our midst, whether they be of foreign or native birth, who from choice have embraced our form of Government, and wish to be part and parcel of us, and will work with us to build up the waste places, and contribute to the general prosperity of the country. But it is better that our unutilized lands should forever be fallow, and our water power go unharvested to the sea, than that we should be overrun by a lot of aliens from Southern Europe, who have been brought here through the facilities of steamship companies, and who have not left behind them, and who do not intend to forsake their Black Land and Soda methods, and who contribute nothing worth leaving to the common good."

While it is true that the development of the South's resources in connection with the labor agitation, for myself, I have but little patience with such agitation. I do not see the necessity for all this hot haste to use up the country's resources, and at the same time make an mockery of the conservation of our natural resources. Our forests are almost gone, and our public domain is exhausted. The South has prospered marvelously and bids fair to make even more rapid strides. This has been accomplished without the aid of such immigration as that which now comes to our riparian ports. Without them our white civilization has been maintained, and I, for one, am willing to deal with the future without their aid."

Only three criminal cases were for trial at Hampton court last week. Brother McSwain is as he ought to be proud of his well behaved county.

Anderson, the pearl city of the pro-peppercorn President, wants a new school building but is bonded so near the constitutional limit that it cannot borrow the money to build.

On January the 23rd seismographs around the world reported severe earthquake shocks somewhere in Asia. I took 40 days for news to get from the earthquake centre to the nearest telegraph station. Western Persia was the centre of disaster. Over 50 villages were destroyed, in a few of them no person surviving. The total loss reported is that five thousand persons and twelve thousand cattle were killed.

CUT-DOWN ACRES.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 27.—The following letter has been sent out by President J. A. Taylor of the Cotton Ginners' Association:

A year ago I earnestly urged you to reduce the acres in cotton and grow more good stuff. It seems from the average report last year that only a part of the growers reduced their acreage and in some sections a small increase was shown. The result has been about what I predicted. The lower prices we have had for several years. It now looks as if the crop will bring around \$500,000,000 or over \$500,000,000, less than last year's crop which was nearly 2,000,000 bales smaller and taking the cost of growing the extra 2,000,000 bales means a loss to the South of over a hundred million dollars.

The time has arrived when you must decide on the acreage for this season. I strongly urge you to reduce your acreage at least 10 per cent and raise more grain and hay so you will be more independent at marketing time. When the spinner is assured there is enough cotton grown to supply his needs he is very independent and will not buy at above prices. With a possibility of a shortage he is a very eager buyer.

While the consumption for the first half of the cotton year ending March 1st will likely be a little less than half the crop the consumption the last half will be very much larger so that we will likely have about the same visible supply that we had last season so that we should raise next year at least a million bales less than the consumption in order to get good prices for it.

Now don't think that every one else is agreeing to it and that you can get a big price for that which too many of you did last season. It will take a uniform reduction in order to get the proper results. You should only plant enough so that you can sell at a profit under the conditions that you will have to expect. It is better to have 11,000,000 bales than to have 12,500,000 bales.

I hope that every member of reading this article will call his farmer's neighbor and agree to it at once. The production of 11 is the extra hundred million dollars the cotton crop brings. The South is the best place to grow it. Every second house in the South Saturday, March 27th, to that amount of it may be taken. Write your papers please copy.

J. A. TAYLOR,
President National Ginners' Association.

THE BOLL WEEVIL.

A bulletin just issued by the department of agriculture in Washington which may be had for the asking shows that the spread of the weevil is generally and rapidly eastward. A host of combating forces are given, but it is shown that the eastern farmer will have more trouble, if the insect spreads, than his farms, than has been experienced in the Southwest. The bulletin says:

It is clear that the problem of the control of the weevil must be solved as the pest continues its invasion of the cotton belt. It cannot be considered, therefore, that the problem is as yet completely solved. Better means of control must be devised for the region that is becoming invaded and of course, means must be devised that will reduce the enormous loss that is suffered, especially during the unfavorable seasons in Texas. The principal work of the Bureau of entomology at this time is in attempting to devise means for this additional control. In the present there is no reason to hope, though the eastern planter must expect a more serious problem than that which confronted the farmers of Texas, especially the destruction of the herds of weevils about to enter winter quarters. It is possible that the weevil's production, though probably at a reduced profit. The sooner he adapts his plantation management to the necessary changes the less the loss will be.

T. H. P.

THE FARM OF THE FUTURE.

I have no sympathy with the spirit of our rural population. We are upon the verge of radical changes for the betterment of our country conditions. Today the safest place for investment is the farm. Land values will increase rapidly with increasing population. They will more than double in thirty years about the standard farms of New York and New England are being bought by capitalists for investment. There is many a man planning to sell his paternal acres in the country for a price and invest the proceeds in a city or in the stock market. He is not of his family by doing so. It is not of an irrational man. He does not stop to think that that farm will give him a home and support and soon quadruple in value. He fails to note the possibility of the rapidly increasing value of the land by the planting of valuable trees and the valuable crops.

The prosperity of the class, so far as regards to the masses, is illusory. The number of the class is actually increasing a reasonable reserve for old age in the country, as compared with the same class in the cities, is as 100 to one taking the whole country into account.

While the wage is high in the cities, the cost of living is also high in proportion. The unutilized lands induce a habit of fiscal spending, not conducive to economy. The South farmer may earn less, but he can save more.—Dr. Seaman A. Knapp.

No matter how March will come in Mr. Roosevelt will go out like a bullet.

SEATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

COUNTY OF BARNWELL.

In the Probate Court.

By J. K. Snelling, Judge of Probate in Barnwell County.

Whereas Mrs. Katherine A. Patterson made suit to me to grant her Letters of Administration on the estate of and effects of Dr. Edward L. Patterson, deceased.

These are, therefore, to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Edward L. Patterson, deceased, that they be and appear before me, by the Court of Probate to be held at Barnwell on the 28th day of February 1909, after publication thereof at 11 o'clock in the forenoon to show cause if any they have why the said administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand this 11th day of February Anno Domini, 1909.

J. K. SNELLING,
Probate Judge.

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Home Course In Modern Agriculture

VII.—The Selection of Seed

By C. V. GREGORY,
Agricultural Division, Iowa State College
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ONE of the most important factors in crop production is the selection of seed. This is true not only in producing a large yield, but also in obtaining a product of the highest quality. The use of the fan mill as a means of sorting out the heaviest, plumpest grains was spoken of in the previous article. The importance of this means of seed selection cannot be too greatly emphasized.

One of the principal reasons for selecting the largest grains for seed is that they contain so much more food for the young plant. This enables it to make a strong, vigorous start. Such plants have more vitality, grow faster and produce larger yields than plants from shriveled seeds, which have a struggle for existence from the time they germinate. Another reason for selecting plump seed is that the resulting crop is likely to be of better quality and will thus bring a higher price when sold. The old law of "like produces like" applies to plants as well as to animals. One of the surest ways of bringing about improvement is by using parents of the desired type year after year.

Selecting seed according to size by screening out the small grains is not enough. Some of the largest grains are shriveled and light in weight. The only way to separate these is to use plenty of wind in the fanning mill so as to blow them over. Such grains are all right for feed, but are entirely out of place in the seed bin. This method of selection is especially important in the case of wheat, as it separates the hard from the soft grains to some extent, since the soft ones are lighter. Hardness is an important factor to look after, since a hard wheat is much more valuable for milling purposes, making a larger amount of high grade flour.

If the most value is to be obtained from the selection of seed, some definite plan of improvement must be followed. By a little care a variety of wheat or oats may be so bred up as to increase the yield from ten to twenty bushels per acre. The work is a small item as compared with the benefits.

In starting the work of breeding the variety which does best in your particular locality should be selected. Go into the field just before harvest time and select forty or fifty of the best heads. In doing this the size and plumpness of the grain and the length of the head should be considered. This latter point has a great deal to do with the yield, since a long head often contains twice as much grain as a shorter one. The character of the straw is also important. It should be straight and strong, with no tendency to rust, as a weak straw or one that is badly rusted cannot hold up a heavy head of grain. Another point to notice is the covering that is, the number of awns that grow up from one seed.

When the required number of such heads have been found they should be put away in a dry place until spring, when they should be threshed out separately and planted in a little plot in the garden. The seed from each head should be sown in a row by itself. The rows should be about four inches apart and the plants the same distance apart in the row.

As harvest time comes on a great difference in these rows will be noticed. Some will be badly affected with rust. Some will have weak straw and will go down badly. Some will have short heads containing but a few grains each. A few of the rows will contain plants and heads of the type you are looking for. Select the best heads from these rows to plant in next year's plot.

The second year, if the first year's selection was properly carried on, considerable improvement will be observed. This year the seed from each of the strongest rows should be sown in bulk after sorting out any heads that are not of the required type. The seed from each of these rows is to be planted in a little plot by itself the following spring.

Notes on these plots regarding the strength of straw, amount of rusting and resistance to rust should be carefully kept. The main point to be considered, however, is the yield. The grain from each of the plots should be weighed and the preference given to the heaviest yielders. Seed from five or six of the best producing plots may then be saved for larger plots the fourth year. The yield of these, together with the quality of grain and strength of straw, will determine which strain is to be selected for field use.

A factor which often cuts off as much as 10 per cent from the yield of small grain is smut. Unlike rust, the treatment of this disease comes more under the head of preparation of the seed than that of selection. It may be well, however, to give a brief outline of the methods of prevention here.

Smut is a fungus growth—that is, a low form of plant which lives on other plants. It usually attacks the heads of small grain, filling the place where the kernels should be with a black, worthless mass. The black dust of which this mass is made up is compressed largely of spores, which correspond to seeds of higher plants. These spores become scattered over the seed in thrashing and storing. In the spring, when the grain sprouts, the smut spore germinates also and sends a tiny thread up through the stem to the head, where it develops into the familiar smut ball. Often these smut balls are inside of a hull that appears perfectly sound from the outside, so that the damage from smut is much greater than would appear from simple planting over the field.

Any method of treatment which will destroy the smut spores on the grain will prove effective, although the smut which is scattered in the field some time infects the plants the next year. When rotation is practiced, however, this is seldom the case, as the oat smut will not attack corn, nor will corn smut grow on oats.

The selection of seed corn is even more important than the selection of small grain, since so much less corn is required to plant an acre, thus permitting of much more careful choice. The most important point to be considered in the selection of seed corn is maturity. An ear that is not entirely mature will be light, the kernels will be loose on the cob and have a dull, chalky appearance and the germ will be weak and the back of the kernels wrinkled.

Each ear should not be selected for seed because the amount of food material stored in the kernel is too small to give the young sprout much of a start. The germ is also likely to be weak from being frozen while still in the immature, watery condition. The fact that an ear is not entirely ripe indicates, too, that it belongs to a variety just a little late for the local soil.

Ears that are not entirely ripe are not nearly so valuable for seed as ripe, sounder ears, even if the latter are not so large. By selecting only ears of this early maturing type a strain of corn can soon be developed which can be depended upon to ripen in the particular locality in which it is grown.

Since the size of the crop depends to a considerable extent on the size of the ear the seed ears selected should be as large as is consistent with early maturity. Mere size of ear is not enough, however. The ears should be well proportioned and not too big around for their length, since ears of this sort are late in maturing and slow to dry out. The size of an ear should be made up of corn instead of cob. This means deep kernels and a relatively small cob.

There must also be the largest possible amount of corn in proportion to

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