

**STATE PLANT BREEDERS' ASS'N.**

Call Issued for Meeting December 10 to Organize.

Columbia, Nov. 23.—On Wednesday, October 30, a meeting of a few of those most interested in the agricultural development of our State was held in the State library at Columbia to discuss the advisability of forming an association of the plant breeders of the State.

At this meeting a committee was appointed to take such steps as would lead to the formation of a State Plant Breeders' Association.

This committee, composed of Mr. David R. Coker, of Hartsville, chairman; Commissioner E. J. Watson, Columbia; Dr. A. C. Moore, of the University of South Carolina; Mr. A. W. Brabham, of Olar; Prof. J. N. Harper, of Clemson, S. C., director of the South Carolina experimental station; Mr. J. Swinton Whaley, of Edisto Island, and Mr. E. W. Dabbs, of Mayesville, S. C., president of the Farmers' Union, was called by the chairman to meet at Commissioner Watson's office on November 9. At that meeting it was decided to call a meeting of all interested in the formation of a State Plant Breeders' Association to be held at the State capital on December 10, and a committee of two from each congressional district was appointed to stimulate interest in the movement, and induce a large attendance of earnest and active farmers. A publicity committee, composed of Chairman David R. Coker, Commissioner Watson and Dr. A. C. Moore, was also appointed and instructed to issue a public call for a meeting on December 10, setting forth the reasons for the formation of such an association, and urging the attendance of all interested in better agricultural methods.

The committee has, therefore, prepared the following call:

To the Farmers of South Carolina: Nature has endowed our State with advantages second to no other country in the world—a climate that allows outdoor work about eleven months of the year—a soil of great variety and adaptability—easy of tillage—much of it very fertile and all readily responsive to intelligent fertilization—the greatest variety of crops and fruits growing to perfection for the intelligent and skillful agriculturalist. Time after time a Parker, a Drake, a Wylie, a Jerry Moore, or a Thompson has astonished the world with yields of some of our staple crops not before thought possible.

But notwithstanding our wonderful natural endowments, as proved time and again by our foremost agriculturalists, our State is not in the forefront of agriculture. Enormous yields in isolated instances benefit the State but little, especially when gained by an abnormal and uneconomical expenditure for fertilizer and labor. What our agriculture most needs is bigger and better average crops at smaller cost.

We do not claim that plant breeding will alone revolutionize our agriculture.

We do claim that it is one of the quickest and cheapest methods of greatly increasing farm profits and that the insight into nature which a close study of plant life gives will make better all round farmers and convert much of the work of the farm from drudgery into pleasure.

Plant breeding made the sea island cotton of South Carolina the finest in the world. Plant breeding has increased the wheat and corn yields of the West many millions of bushels.

It made the best sugar industry, and is rapidly revolutionizing the pineapple and citrus fruit industry of the country.

One county in our own State will net over one-half million dollars extra profit this year owing to the breeding and introduction of longer and more prolific varieties of cotton.

Many instances may be cited to show how plant breeding has improved the quality and increased the yield of economic plants to the great benefit of the agriculture of the world.

Few Southern farmers as yet appreciate the enormous importance of plant breeding as an aid to agriculture, but they must be awakened and put to the work of improving our staple crops.

Therefore, the undersigned hereby call a meeting to all the citizens of South Carolina, who are interested in plant breeding, to meet at the State house, in Columbia, on Tuesday, December 10, at 12 o'clock noon, to organize an association of the plant breeders of South Carolina for the purpose of promoting this most important branch of agriculture in our State.

DAVID R. COKER, Chairman.  
E. J. WATSON.  
A. C. MOORE.

Father may have his faults, but you won't find a wad of gum under the table at the place where he generally sits.—Cincinnati Inquirer.

Dummy babies have been used as a means of smuggling partridge eggs into Vienna.

**SPEEDS WITH PRISONER.**

Mob in Hot Pursuit After Women's Alleged Assailant.

Macon, Ga., Nov. 29.—A Cordelo special to the Macon Telegraph says:

The sheriff of Dodge county is speeding in a big touring car down into Southeast Georgia to-night with a negro, Chesley Williams, and hot in pursuit are several more cars filled with armed men, bent on lynching the prisoner, who last night at a late hour shot the wife of a well known planter of Dodge county, and criminally assaulted her 18-year-old daughter.

All day citizens possess have been scouring the countryside for Chesley Williams, the negro whom both the mother and the girl described as their assailant, in an effort to lynch him. To-night some time after dark the sheriff found him in an outhouse not far from the scene of the outrage and immediately with a party of five deputies left for parts unknown. On the presumption that he was bound for McRae or some other point on the Southern Railway, several cars a half hour afterward left in pursuit.

The crime was committed a few miles out of Rhine, some thirty miles from here. Last night while the mother and daughter were alone in the house, which is isolated, the negro, who had been a farm hand on the place, entered the house. He was ordered out, but refused to go. He shot and seriously wounded the mother and then assaulted her 18-year-old daughter. Shortly after the outrage the men of the house returned and the women told their story. Since that time, posses from all over the countryside have been searching for the negro. Negroes to-night told the sheriff where Williams was and he found him in another house hiding.

It is understood that before the flight by the sheriff and his prisoner started, the negro, Williams, confessed.

**LEESVILLE BANK FAILS.**

Bad Collections Cause Given—Liabilities \$50,000.

Lexington, Dec. 1.—The People's Bank, of Leesville, in this county, has voluntarily closed its doors, the suspension having been inaugurated on Wednesday last, when the funds of the bank ran so low that the cashier found it impossible to continue the business of the institution. Dr. E. J. Etheridge, president of the bank, has been absent from Leesville for a week, and all efforts to locate his whereabouts, by his family and close personal friends, have proven futile. When last heard from, it is stated, he was in Orangeburg, from which place he talked to friends in Leesville over the long distance telephone.

From the best information obtainable, it seems that the bank has been practically defunct for a year and that its condition was known to the State authorities. It is also stated on reliable information that the State bank examiner has not made an examination of the bank since last February.

The failure of the People's Bank is due, it is said, to bad collections, which means that the bank has probably taken a lot of worthless securities. The bank has only about \$20,000 in deposits, according to the books of the institution, and it is probable that the depositors will be paid dollar for dollar, although since the closing of the bank has become known there has been much uneasiness among those who placed their savings in the bank's keeping.

It is stated that Dr. Etheridge, the president, is indebted to the bank personally to the amount of about \$20,000, and that his outside indebtedness will reach up into the thousands.

It is understood that since the condition of the People's Bank has been known the National Bank, of Leesville, has used every effort to stay the suspension of its neighbor institution, with the hope that arrangements might be perfected whereby the People's Bank might be liquidated, but the efforts were unsuccessful. The total liabilities of the suspended institution is said to be about \$50,000.

The directors of the bank are: Dr. E. J. Etheridge, Dr. L. B. Etheridge, W. Aug Shealy, J. P. Able, Jacob Austin, Carville Shealy, A. L. Eargle, and J. P. Copeland. Dr. E. J. Etheridge is president and W. Aug Shealy, cashier.

There will be a meeting of the stockholders and directors of the suspended bank held in Leesville tomorrow morning, at which time efforts will be made to perfect arrangements for the paying off of depositors. The People's Bank was organized only a few years ago, the capital stock being \$25,000.

This is the second bank failure in Lexington county this year, the Lexington Savings Bank, the oldest banking house in the county, having closed its doors in March.

**TRAGEDY ON THANKSGIVING.**

Hosts and Guests in Pistol Battle Following Quarrel.

Franklin, Ga., Nov. 29.—Thanksgiving dinner at the home of John McWaters, six miles from here last night, ended in a pistol duel between McWaters and his son, Frank, and two of their guests, Sheriff Taylor, of Heard county, and Dawson Taylor, brothers, with the result that the elder McWaters is dying and young McWaters is suffering from serious wounds. The Taylor brothers, who escaped without injury, are now at liberty on bonds.

When the two Taylor men, who were invited guests, arrived at the McWaters home, both, it is said, were under the influence of drink, and their host requested them to leave. A quarrel followed. The Taylors are said to have begun the duel, wounding both of the McWaters at the first fire. The elder McWaters fired four shots, after receiving what is expected to be a fatal wound, but the bullets went wild.

White Dresses and Finger-Prints. Setting Up to, and Holding. The Stork, Nothing Doing.

I spent a short time this evening in a delightful home—a home of culture and refinement—a home in which each member of the family wants to let the sunshine in, to shut the shadows out. For wit, one would swear that they were fresh from the Emerald Isle, and for repartee, they are as quick as the lightning flash. On each other they crack some hard chestnuts, but each one knows, his or her time will come.

One of the boys has a lovely sweetheart hardby, and he spends each Sunday evening in her company. About the time his sister, a charming lass, thought it time for him to go, she said: "Brother be sure and wash your hands good; Bettie has on a lovely white dress, and while I know you will not be like the ghost at Belshazzar's feast, leave hand-marks on the wall, I fear, however, that finger-prints may be left on Bettie's white dress, where she herself cannot see them, but others could!"

The house came down, but I saw in his twinkling eyes, his manly face, that he would soon explode, and he exploded.

His sister's beau was on the spot with the goods on. He kept the fire going, by putting on fuel which had been charred by forest fires. It would black one's hands, and in putting on a very black piece, the young man's hands were badly soiled.

Without the trace of a smile, the young man calmly said:

"Bill, go and wash your hands at once, I do not say that you will 'leave foot-prints on the sands of time,' but as you now are, I fear you might leave finger-prints on the back of a near-by white dress!"

The poor sister collapsed, the beau shot out of the door like a cannon ball down a coal-chute, while the brother and I, said, "good-night."

A few days ago a young man came to me and asked the loan of a sum of money. He said:

"I need this money to take my sweetheart to the fair, and as I am holding her now, I must carry her. If I was only sitting up to her, I wouldn't care a snap."

I asked the young man to please explain the difference between "holding" and "setting up."

"That's plain," said he. "When I set up to her, I don't get so close, but when I hold her, I've got both arms around her. See!"

I saw.

He took her to the fair.

My bosom friend, Joe, about a year ago took unto himself a beautiful bride, one of whom any man should feel proud. A few weeks ago he took her to the station and she took a train and went to her old home on a visit. Joe went to the barber shop, and had a shave, leaving on a stubby mustache. After getting the shave, he met a young married man who has quite a bunch of boys and girls, and he is justly proud of his progeny. Joe said:

"Jim, my wife has gone home for a month or more, I've had a shave, and you see I've left on my mustache to grow."

About an hour later Joe met Jim again, and made the same remark. "I see," said Jim, "Madam has gone home to consult the stork, and you have left your mustache for the boy to play with when he comes home."

Joe went his way, and Jim went his. A few days ago I met Jim, and he asked me if Joe's wife had come back home, and did the visit to the stork mean anything.

"Nothing doing," said I. Now, I told this on Joe, and confound him, he is after me with a shotgun. Send the sheriff down here to stop Joe, for I'm hiding in the woods, the weather's cold, and I want to get out in the open again.

THE LOCAL POET.

Olar, S. C.

For every 1,000 people in England and Wales, 15 dies annually.

**MILLS TO RESUME.**

Edisto Lumber Co. to Commence Operation About February 1st.

The Branchville Journal says that the large saw mill of the Edisto Lumber Co., situated at Edisto, in this county, about nine miles from Bamberg, will again begin operations after being closed down for nearly five years. Preparations for its operation are now going on, and it is expected the mill will be ready to operate by February 1st. The mills will be enlarged and improved, and will give employment to between 250 and 300 men.

The Edisto Lumber Co., the former owners of the Edisto mills, sold the plant to the Howard Cole Co. Inc., of St. Louis, owners of large timber franchises in this section. The Howard Cole Co. is not an operating concern but recently they associated with them several large lumber mill men of Chicago and a company was formed to operate the plant at Edisto. This company is known as the Edisto River Lumber Co. with its offices at Edisto and the chief business office at Chicago. The Edisto Lumber Co. is capitalized at \$60,000 and it will do a general lumbering business, cutting, dressing and marketing the timber owned by the Howard Cole Co. Inc., in this section.

The timber options owned by the Howard Cole Co. in this section are estimated to represent about 100,000,000 feet of standing timber. Their holdings extend for several miles on both sides of the Edisto fork above the mill and for several miles on both sides of the river below the mill. It is estimated that there is enough timber available to keep the mills running steadily for at least 12 years. The management is preparing to place the plant in shape to handle the greatest output possible in the most modern style. The company will be in touch with the leading lumber markets of the country and the product of the plant will be handled to the greatest advantage possible.

Mr. J. E. Hayner, of Keokuk, Ia., is the general manager of the company and will be in charge of the operation of the mills. Mr. Hayner is an experienced lumber mill man who has seen service in the business in all parts of the country, and is equally at home in the frozen timber camps of the northwest and among the skidder-gangs of the swamps of the South. He is as well acquainted with the operation of a band mill as with a circular mill. The Edisto mill is a band mill and Mr. Hayner says the machinery is the finest made and in excellent condition despite the fact that the mill has been lying idle for near five years. This latter fact is a tribute to Mr. J. S. Britton, of Branchville, who has had charge of the entire property since the mills were closed. Mr. Britton will retain his position with the new company.

Mr. Hayner has begun the work of repairing and enlarging the plant. The sum of \$13,000 has been appropriated by the company for improvements. Mr. Hayner purposes to enlarge the capacity of the plant from its former output of 25,000 feet to 65,000 feet. Lumber of all grades, rough and dressed, will be supplied. Long and short leaf pine, cypress and other woods will be cut, the tracts owned by Howard Cole Co. yielding several kinds of timber. Recently 40 acres of land were purchased for an addition to the lumber yards. A system of tramways will be built for handling the timber in the yards and drysheds. A National brick dry kiln will be built, having a capacity of 25,000 feet of high grade flooring, ceiling, etc., per day. The pile foundations of the mills will be replaced by concrete pillars. The hotel for the accommodation of the white employees will be remodelled, and cottages will be erected for the colored employees and their families. An office building will be erected and spur tracks laid to connect with the Southern Railway main line.

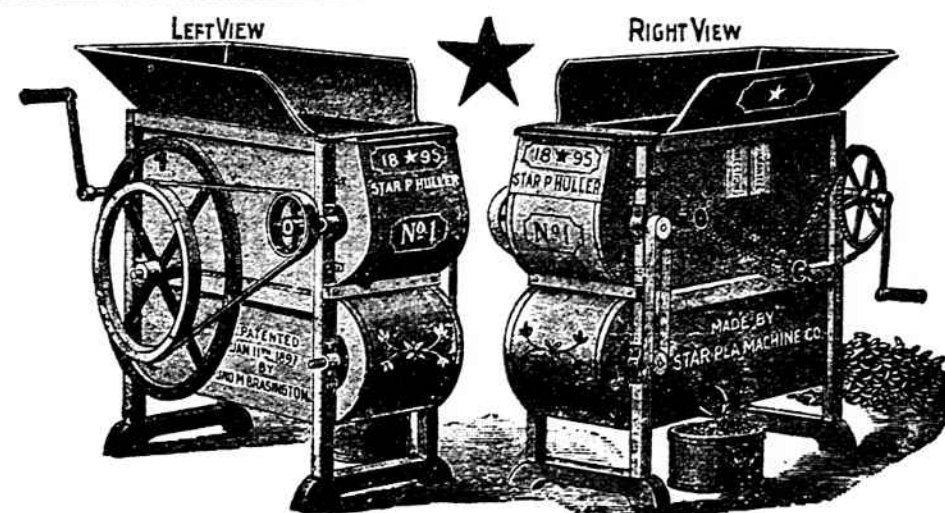
Mr. Hayner will continue to use the river for the transportation of the timber from the forests to the mills. An experienced logging man from Michigan has been secured to take charge of this work. Two gasoline launches will be employed, one to do the work of a light tow boat and the other for messenger work up and down the river. The tow boat will be used to draw a light barge laden with supplies to and from the logging camps and the mills. Mr. Hayner, and perhaps, several of his lieutenants, will reside in Branchville. His company has ordered an automobile shipped him from Chicago to enable him to travel quickly between Branchville and the mills.

**Difficult Repairs.**

"You said when you sold me my four-horsepower runabout that you'd supply all parts broken?"

"Yes, sir," said the salesman.

"Then," said the other, "let me have at once, please, a first and third rib, two front teeth, one left ankle bone and a nose bridge."—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.



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