

ALLIANCE DEPARTMENT.

J. F. NISBET Editor.

The County Alliance will meet next Friday and we hope a full delegation will be present as matters of very great importance will come up. It is time to make arrangements for our fertilizers and we hope a great many new members will be enrolled and buy their guano through the State Exchange for we know we can save you money.

Plain Facts in Politics.

Manufacturers' Record.

One of the greatest needs of the South is politics. That statement may be disputed in some quarters until politics is defined. Webster gives several definitions of politics. One is, the science of government; another is, the advancement of candidates to office. The South has too much of the latter and not enough of the former. Hence the ills which are its portion. The situation is aptly described by Charles W. Dabney, president of the University of Tennessee, and late assistant secretary of agriculture. In an article chiefly for farmers in the "Southern States Farm Magazine" of Baltimore for December he writes:

"The road that passes your gate, the school your children go to, the church you attend Sunday, your village and its every interest require your earnest and conscientious attention and support. Why should politics influence you in deciding who should survey the road or select the teacher or keep order in the village? And yet, eight times out of ten, the party convention or boss will decide your vote even in the selection of a school director. For your own home interests you want the best, most efficient and most faithful person in each place. But for the sake of helping to maintain an organization which aims to elect a congressman once every two years, or a governor once in four, you will sacrifice interests that affect the prosperity, comfort, and intellectual and moral advancement of your family as these officers can never do."

There is a volume of suggestion in that paragraph. It appeals not only to the influential class of men upon whose success rests the prosperity of the South, but also to every man of whatever condition who has the welfare of his community at heart.

The science of government implies in a republic the choice by the people of representatives who will bend all their energies to the advancement and betterment of their constituents. This duty is as much incumbent upon a school trustee as upon the governor of a State or a President. It means the politics of invigoration.

The advancement of candidates to office, in too many instances in the South is the politics of suffocation. It implies the ability to handle a nominating caucus by hook or crook, and not a purpose to give good schools, good roads or good government to a community. Such a purpose demands capabilities that are alien to the average politician. It is easier to throw sand in the peo-

ple's eyes than to give them roads free from dust or mud. It is easier to prate in wild rhetoric about partisan or sectional text-books than to select teachers fit to make a school valuable. It is easier to attribute bad administration to the faults of the opposition than to remove the festivities in the dominant party.

For the politician has trained his constituents into the belief that upon the success of party depends the very salvation of the individual. The stress of previous conditions a generation ago was a strong foundation for such a doctrine, but that time has passed. There never was a time, however, when it was true that the preservation of civilization could be possible only in the retention of particular individuals and their friends in public office. As a matter of fact, that was exactly the result of a preaching of the doctrine of self-preservation. Now it is practically the doctrine, and to maintain it the politicians teach by their actions that it is more important for a justice of the peace to be a strict party man, than to be possessed of a knowledge of the law or common sense.

This canker, which reaches to the very vitals of a community, paralyzing the energies which should be excited in the choice of competent representatives, comes to the surface even more threateningly in legislative bodies.

There is a growing discontent with an election law, the impetus coming from those citizens who have been brave enough and independent enough to break away from a public sentiment false and injurious in its origin, but assiduously cultivated by the machine. The machine proposes to reform the ballot. Instead of boldly taking the bull by the horns, as was done in Mississippi, and eliminating from the suffrage elements of ignorance which menace the peace of the State in politics, the habit, too often, is to make a compromise or to frame a law that will enable the politicians to juggle the ignorance upon which they thrive. In this practice are the germs of laxity in public morality.

Discontent with existing industrial conditions incline the people to encourage the entrance into the State of trustifying capital. They see the good effects of liberal legislation on the subject of investments in other States, and realize the evil consequences of laws placing foreign capital upon an inequality with home capital. The politician has his opportunity in this unrest, and frequently manages to wrest victory from the very agitation that would send him into obscurity. His safety is in bad laws. Demagogery lives and moves and has its being in the maintenance of evil because it is local and has stood for many years. With a pocket full of passes the marplot denounces the railroads and tells that they should "strangle the octopus;" that they should compel passenger and freight rates to be fixed to suit them without reference to the effect upon the railroads. "Let the railroads go into the hands of the receivers," he argues. "What do we care? Let the investors lose their money? That's none

of our business. We are showing the people that we shall ever be their defenders against hydra-headed monopolies and soulless corporations. What are we here for?"

To retain their hold upon public office and the opportunities in it for plunder, the unscrupulous politicians play upon passion, prejudice and ignorance to the detriment of his State until in desperation the progressive element leads a revolution instead of assisting in an evolution, and the last state of that community is worse than the first.

But an end must come to such politics. The intelligence and enterprise of the South and the friends elsewhere of the South are encouraged for the future by the events of the recent past. In many cities of the South are powerful influences at work for the growth of a healthy public sentiment that will send the demagogue permanently to the rear. For several years the Richmond (Va.) Times has been contending for honesty and purity of the ballot in the face of many difficulties and on the high ground of public morality. Only the other day the Charleston News and Courier made the record of crimes of violence in South Carolina the text for a magnificent plea for the development of an opinion that will prevent such crimes by compelling swift and certain legal punishment. The Atlanta Journal, the New Orleans States, the Galveston News and the Louisville Courier-Journal are among other newspapers which lead in the crusade for a higher tone of public thought and a broader scope of public action. They have a constantly-increasing number of followers, and their persistency will have its good effect in time. There is no reason why every newspaper in the South should not take an active part in the propaganda. Viewing the matter from a purely materialistic standpoint, the campaign for public morality in the South would mean temporary loss for some newspapers, but in the end it would be to their advantage.

The disappearance of the demagogue would remove a great incubus from some of the press, as well as from the community, and with a free press and a free legislature the State would be in a position to reach a phase of development impossible at present in spite of magnificent resources. Its people would be encouraged to exert themselves to the uttermost, and their efforts would be supplemented by capital from outside, willing, anxious, to find safe fields for investment. Politics would cease to be striving for office; it would become the increasing of the State, the complete exploitation of its resources and the enhancement of the happiness of its citizens.

Religious Notice.

There will be preaching in the Lancaster Presbyterian church at 7 o'clock p. m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 11 o'clock on Saturday and Sabbath. The Lord's Supper will be administered at the service on Sabbath morning.

All are cordially invited to attend these services and the membership of the church are affectionately urged to join in them.

The Cotton Situation.

Mr. Alfred B. Shepperson, while agreeing cordially in the purpose of the cotton growers' conventions to reduce the acreage and decrease cotton production, does not agree with the fight on trading in futures. He says: "I noticed that the recent convention in Atlanta deprecated speculation in cotton. The unusual absence of speculation this season has been one of the chief causes of the depression and low prices. A large majority of speculators buy cotton, hoping to profit by an advance and their buying and influence assist greatly in sustaining prices. If speculation is eliminated and no one buys cotton but the actual consumers of the staple you may depend upon it that an era of continued low prices will be inaugurated. The more buyers there are of cotton, speculatively or otherwise the greater will be the demand, and the higher will be the price."

There are many others who share in this opinion expressed by Mr. Shepperson, says the Augusta Chronicle but there are others who have given the matter possibly an equal amount of thought who hold an opposite view, and endorse the action of the cotton growers in declaring against speculation in futures.

But all will agree with Mr. Shepperson that the crop of next year must be reduced in acreage, and that such a reduction will doubtless send up the price of cotton for the remainder of the current year. Cotton is a non-remunerative crop at present prices, and, according to Mr. Shepperson, "an examination of the prices of cotton for a series of years will show that great depressions are invariably followed by sharp reactions." Mr. Shepperson also calls attention to the statement in a recent circular letter that "middling cotton has at some time during each year, since 1825, sold in New York as high as 8 cents." Mr. Shepperson's letter ends with the wise injunction, "Whatever the spinners may do, the plainest dictates of common sense should cause the cotton growers next spring to devote more land to food and forage crops and less to cotton."

This was the verdict of the cotton growers' convention in Atlanta, and will doubtless be the decree of the convention now in session in Memphis. But no good results will follow these conventions and these resolutions unless the farmers bind themselves together in an intelligent organization for the purpose of carrying them into effect, and for the further purpose of presenting an organized and well disciplined body with which the spinners and other organized purchasers of the crop must deal. Organization must be met with organization, and the expert purchaser must be confronted by an expert salesman, before cotton growers can hope to realize the best results from their labors.—Cotton Plant.

Stray Mule Found.

I have in my possession a dark bay horse mule, captured on my premises Friday mornig, Nov., 12 1897. The owner can get same by proving his right thereto and paying all expenses connected therewith, including this notice.
S. J. STARNES,
Creek, S. C.

Fits Cured
From U.S. Journal of Medicine
Prof. W. E. Feeke, who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any living Physician; his success is astonishing. We have heard of cases of 20 years' standing cured by him. He publishes a valuable work on this disease, which he sends with a large bottle of his absolute cure, free to any sufferers who may send their P. O. and Express address. We advise any one wishing a cure to address Prof. W. E. FEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., New York

Oakhurst Locals.

Mr. W. A. Hilliard, a prominent citizen of Bowersville, Ga., and Mrs. Rebecca Croxton were married last Tuesday evening, at the residence of the bride's brother, Mr. Z. L. Robertson, Rev. Chalmers Moore performing the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard left for Bowersville next day. Miss Anna Ussery accompanied them.

Dr. Jno. W. Rollings, of Lexington, Ky., is visiting his mother and other relatives.

Miss Virginia Robertson left for the Flint Ridge section Friday where she goes to teach school.

Prof. J. F. Fooshe, principal of the graded school at Blacksville, visited his brother here last week.

Mr. James M. Robertson, of Columbia, spent several days last week visiting at his old home.

The Oakhurst High School, under the management of Prof. Geo. W. Fooshe, with Miss Mamie Stover as assistant, is in a flourishing condition.

To Organize the Townships.

Township Presidents of the American cotton growers' Association, will please call their clubs together at an early day for the purpose of perfecting their organization.

This is strictly a non-political organization looking to the betterment of the Southern farmer, and the South generally. All good citizens are earnestly requested to unite with us.

There will be a mass meeting held at the Court house the first Monday in February. Everybody is invited. Each township will be expected to send at least six delegates, and as many more as they may desire.

R. L. HICKLIN, Co. Pres.



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W. F. YOUNG.

July 28, 1897(1y)