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FAIRVIEW AND LAURENS FAIRS

By Editor Hunnicutt, of the Southern Cultivator

October 15th we spent at Laurens, S. C., attending their annual fair held at this place. The setting of the Laurens Fair, in our opinion, could not be excelled. It was held in a pasture—the creek marked the boundary on one side, a level Bermuda sod gave ample room for the exhibits of agricultural products, the grand stand, and the ring for the judging of horses in their various classes. On the far side a hill makes a regular amphitheater and along the foot of this hill they had made a walk-way and just above this was arranged the exhibit of dogs, rabbits, pets, chickens and turkeys, while below this walk you had the cattle and hogs. This is a true fair, educationally and socially. They have but one day—no entrance fees. All free and some for five thousand people gathered here, looked at the livestock and the agricultural products, watched the judging of the horses, had a good dinner, saw all their neighbors, had a good time and went home the next day to gather their crops and sow their grain. This is what a county fair should be. We do not believe in holding a county fair for a week and a state fair for ten days. It is too much waste of time, money and energy. A fair should not be held in the interests of the side shows and midway performers. Let the farmers come and meet one another, see what there is to be seen, and then go home to their pressing duties. The Laurens fair was a good one in every respect, and we enjoyed very much our day with the good farmers of Laurens county.

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Live Stock Show at Fairview, S. C.

We have written of this remarkable one-day fair annually held at Fairview, S. C., but it is a story that will bear

repetition. On Friday, September 24, we attended their 29th annual exhibit of agricultural products, ladies' fancy work, poultry, cattle and hogs, and horses. They held this fair on the last Friday in September, and have never been rained out. On this occasion the morning was cloudy, but the clouds passed away and the day was all that could be asked for. We have attended many fairs, but we have never seen such an exhibit of horse flesh as they have at Fairview. They start judging the various entries—43 in number—at 9 o'clock and continue until five. Shetland ponies, colts of various ages, saddle horses, buggy horses, stallions, brood mares, mule teams, single and double, all are there in numbers (some 300 or more), and of the highest quality. We do not believe any place in the South can show as much fine horse flesh, unless it be Lexington, Ky. We know the cotton belt can not excel it. Now the lesson to draw from the fair is this: See what long years of work along any given line will do for a people. These farmers have been taught to appreciate good horses, to take a special pride in having fine stock. This is the best attended fair we ever saw, while the grounds are out five miles from the nearest railroad station, still the attendance was around 10,000 people. We feel sure we saw 3,000 buggies to say nothing of automobiles and carriages and wagons. There is a fascination about this fair, and we hope to meet with them for many years. Hard times, low price of cotton, "wars and rumors of wars", make no impression upon this fair. Like Christmas time, it has become a fixture in the lives of these farmers, who live in one of the best farmed and best farming sections of the south—the heart of the Piedmont belt of South Carolina.

LAURENS COUNTY AS SEEN BY EDITOR HUNNICUTT

From The Southern Cultivator, by G. F. Hunnicutt, Editor

While over at Pendleton, S. C., we accepted an invitation extended by W. P. Harris, of Owings, down in Laurens county, to go home with him. So, we were given a ride in an automobile of 55 miles through Anderson county, the lower portion of Greenville county and the upper section of Laurens. If the South has a section of better farmers we have never been permitted to see them. We have seen just as good and better land, many a time, but never farmers who handle it better. We went through hill sections and levels, red soil and gray sandy soil; not all farms were managed equally well, of course, but the farming was far above the average. The corn was good, the hay shocks dotting many a field gave a pleasing appearance to the landscape. The cotton was fine. We saw thousands of acres that would yield its bale per acre and many that would exceed this good return. But what pleased us most was the good houses that we saw. These South Carolina farmers—many of them have no better sense than to fix up to spend the remaining days right out upon their farms. This is a little rare, but a delightful sight to our poor eyes. We said these good houses pleased us most, but here we were mistaken; what really pleased us most, was that we saw the visible, tangible evidence that so many of these farmers had some conception of farming, of what an acre can produce, of how to go down to get good results from the soil. This is truly the highest tribute than can be paid to any farmer—what he can do with the soil. These farmers use commercial fertilizer, it is true, but they stop not there; they are making use of that truly wonderfully efficient agency, cover crops, and even now you see the green of the rye along the middle of the cotton rows and you see where the plows have lately covered the bur clover seed and the crimson clover seed. If you are not doing good farming, get at it. Do not quibble over matters any longer or excuse yourself any longer. The main element of good farming is not in the land or in your money, but in you, in your mind, in your plans and in your ability to carry them out. The big and the little, the rich and the poor, can do it. It is all in getting on the right road, then going ahead.

Over 100 Acres in Lookout Mountain Irish Potatoes.

While over at Laurens county, S. C., we spent the night with our friend of long-standing, W. P. Harris, out from Owings. The next morning he took us around in his community to many fine crops of Lookout Mountain Irish potatoes. He and his sons have thirty acres, and his neighbors have from five to ten acres, so that in his community there are over one hundred acres, and they were all looking fine. This shows what one man can do. Mr. Harris commenced to grow these potatoes some five years ago, making a success of them. He has increased his acreage year by year and his neighbors have gradually fallen into line. We often hear the complaint of "you can not find a market for anything except cotton." But this is simply because our farmers have not learned how. When you really learn to grow other things successfully and to handle them properly, the market will come. Mr. Harris has never been able to supply his demand. He never fails to secure a stand. We see thousands who fall more or less. Why? Because they haven't learned how. He has the same "dry drouths" and "hot spells" to con-

tend with, but experience has taught him how to plant so as to secure a stand. We were glad to see this potato industry getting such a hold in Laurens. This is but one example of what a man can do for himself and his community. The problems are here. Get busy and solve one of them if you can not solve them all. Learn to grow some valuable crop—other than cotton—to help pay expenses and to enable you to make more clear money out of your cotton. This is the great problem before all Southern farmers. A Striking Example of What Good Work and Good Farming Will Do. You will often hear men say "there is no money in farming," and others say, "I could make money if I had money, but a poor man can not make enough to pay the high prices we have to pay for land now." The answer to both of these is, "it depends altogether upon the kind of farming you do." We see farmers here and there who make money farming and who are buying and paying for high-priced land. While over in Laurens we rode out to see the farm of W. H. Manley, who lives near the home of W. P. Harris. Mr. Manley was raised a poor orphan boy. The father of Mrs. Harris—Mr. Gray—took him, raised him and sent him to school long enough to learn how to read and write. When he became of age he worked for wages a while and soon went to cropping on shares. He bought a small piece of poor land and commenced working to pay for it. From reading agricultural papers and from the example of good farming that he saw in his community, he got the ambition in him to make a good farmer. By doing good work and always striving to do a little better next year, he now owns 285 acres of good land easily worth \$60.00 per acre, a nice home, good stock, good barns, and tenant houses. Last year he made sixteen bales of cotton to the plow and sold \$800.00 worth of corn, potatoes and other products. You ought to see his work shop and tool house. He has his automobile in it, but his plows, stocks, harrows and planters are kept under shelter and in the best of repair. It is a long building and in the rear end he has a well-equipped blacksmith and wood-shop. When you see his houses, his pasture, his crops, you know at a glance that a good farmer lives there. We certainly like to see men like Mr. Manley coming up. Men are prone to make excuses—poverty, drouth, poor land, low prices and many other things are always mentioned as to why they have not succeeded better. We well know that all men can not succeed alike, but it is equally true that the greatest limitation put upon your success is that which you put there yourself. Of course, you are going to have many difficulties to overcome. This is what tests your manhood and ability. If you are poor do not give up. You may never get rich—but always remember this much—nothing but yourself can ever prevent your doing good work and good work will always make money farming as sure as the sun rises and shines.

And This in Boston! General sympathy is due the Boston woman who came back from a session at the dentist's with the sad announcement: "I have only two cuspidors left in my head."—Boston Transcript.

Some Quick Sellers

We mention here a few of the many items that were recognized by expert buyers during the past week and purchased freely.

- Yard wide Pongee Plaid Silk in choice coloring.
- Perspiration proof Chiffon Taffetas.
- 36 inch plain Wash Silk, colors white, green, light blue and navy per yd. 25c
- The range of Silk Finish Poplin running from 15c to 25c per yard.
- Just opened a yard wide Velvet Corduroy in pure white at 50c.
- With a full line of Silk Velvets all standard shades.

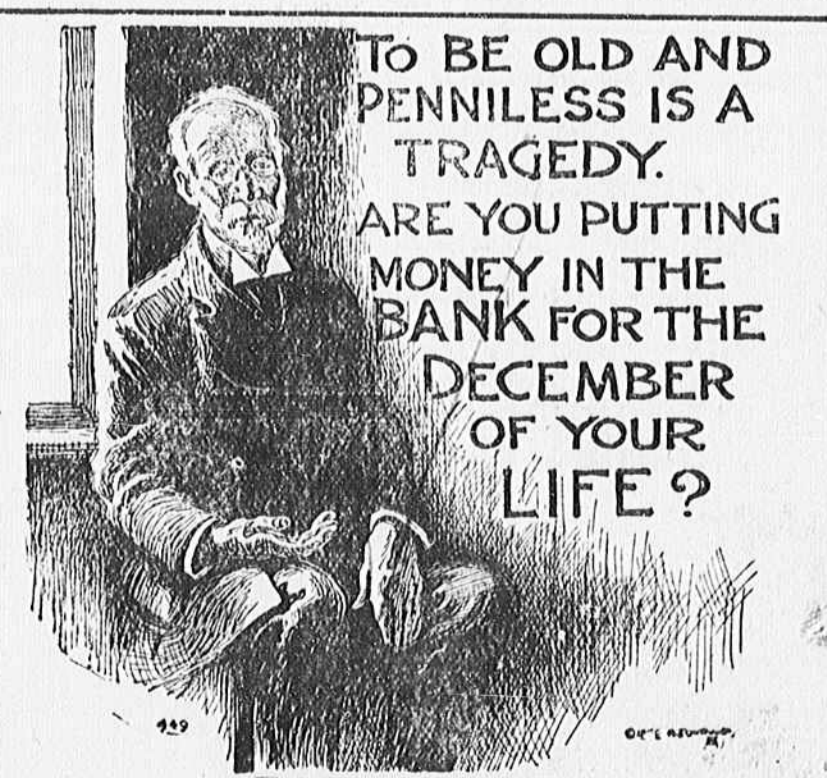
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