

The Cotton Grower's Protective Association

Farmers Advised to Diversify Crops.

The following address was issued by the Cotton Growers' Protective Association, which met a few days ago in Augusta, Ga., and which advises the growing of food crops as the surest road to agricultural prosperity in the South: To the Cotton Growers of America:

The Cotton Growers' Protective Association of America, in convention assembled at Augusta, Ga., on this 15th March, 1897, again come to you with an urgent appeal for co-operative action in planting the crop for 1897. It is a matter of extreme congratulation that the appeal made to you in 1895 and 1896 was so generally responded to and that the crop of 1895, made upon the diminished acreage, did have the effect of greatly increasing the prices of cotton. The crop of 1895, though estimated to be 3,400,000 bales short of the crop of 1894, was in the markets of the world worth more by nearly \$30,000,000. In the face of this result to abandon the idea of diminished acreage would be to sound the retreat in the face of victory. It is the consensus of opinion among the best thinkers that if by any means the cotton crop of America should be held within the limits of 8,000,000 to 9,000,000 bales per annum for five years, the people of these Southern States would be the richest and most prosperous agricultural people in the world. How can this be brought about? The answer is with you. We appeal to your self-interest and patriotism to do all in your power to keep down the production of the staple. Do not abandon the ground you have won. Fight on upon the lines laid down, make the cotton States self-supporting, put more land in clover and grasses for your hogs to run on, diversify your crops, and when you have done all this the area devoted to cotton will yield more profitable returns than if you sought to increase the number of your bales. While the reduction of the acreage to be planted in cotton for the sole purpose of reducing the size of the crop may be impracticable, the increase of area planted in food crops must inevitably bring prosperity to cotton growers, irrespective of the size of the cotton crop. There has never been a time in the history of our section of the country that a movement looking to the increased production of corn, hay, oats, hogs and other food crops was so important and necessary.

It is felt by the most thoughtful men that we are entering upon a year of great uncertainties, and that even a small cotton crop may fail to give adequate returns for its production. The muttering of a storm are disturbing values and unsettling all business calculations. The prudent man will trim his sails to meet it. With the commerce of the country interrupted by war—and war may come—cotton would be unusable except at nominal prices. Every consideration, then, of patriotism, of self interest and of prudence dictates that you adhere strictly to the rule of diminished acreage. Earnest men are earnestly working to lead you and to guide you into prosperity. Do not let them labor in vain, but cheerfully and hopefully respond to their appeal.

In conclusion, we desire to say to every cotton grower, whether his crop is ten bales or one thousand bales, see to it first that your place is self-sustaining—and we mean by this to be sure you grow on the farm an abundance of corn, meat, hay, oats, peas, potatoes, etc., for all the people on the place, both white and colored. If the tenant will not produce these articles, sell them to him and keep the money in your own pocket, in place of sending it out of the country. When you have done this, or provided for it, grow what cotton you can.

If every farmer or planter in the cotton growing district will make this his rule of action, and live up to it conscientiously, it will accomplish the result we so much desire of making us all prosperous and happy, whether your cotton, which will be a surplus crop, sells for a high or low price. We would urge you again to make sure first of a cheap, home grown living for all the people and all the animals on the place, and then what cotton you can.

We address our argument to each individual farmer. Every farmer may measurably control the cost of producing his cotton.

Let each individual farmer resolve in his own mind and without regard to what others may do, to cut down the cost of producing his cotton. By concentrating his skill, his industry and fertilizers on a smaller area he will produce his cotton cheaper. Every farmer knows that the better the land, the better preparation and cultivation, the more liberal the amount of well balanced fertilizers he applies per acre, the less will be the cost per pound of cotton.

Put only the best land in cotton and corn and the poorer lands in rye, peas, etc. This will certainly reduce your crop product in the aggregate, but it will much more reduce the cost.

So that in any event, whatever others may do, you will be all right.

Governor Ellerbe has appointed G. D. Dickinson to be treasurer of the new county of Ramberg and W. E. Sease auditor.

Telegraphic News.

Pittsburg, March 25.—The engine in mill No. 2 of the Edgar Thompson Steel works ran away about midnight, resulting in the bursting of the immense fly wheel. David Hugo, engineer, had both legs crushed, and died this morning. George B. McLellan Snyder was fatally injured. The fly wheel was 24 feet in diameter. The force of the explosion badly wrecked the mill and caused thousands of dollars worth of damage. Portions of the wheel were thrown almost incredible distances.

Philadelphia, March 25.—The Record says by order of the Cuban junta the Bermuda sailed from Fernandina in search of the Laurada, known to have on board an important expedition in aid of the insurgents. It is believed that the Laurada broke down and those aboard are in need of assistance. The tug Monarch has been started from Pensacola on the same errand. It is almost certain that the Laurada has not landed her big cargo of munitions of war, and it is reluctantly admitted by Cubans here that the mission thus far is a failure.

Raleigh, N. C., March 25.—In the superior court to-day John Groves, white, was convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary. The crime of which he was convicted was the killing of Henry Wall, colored, on the 30th of January, at Forestville, in this county. Notice of appeal was given.

Hartsville, March 25.—Quite a serious accident occurred about 10 miles west of this place near Lynch's river on Monday. It seems that some men were getting ready to saw lumber, and the negro who was managing the engine was trying to get on a good head of steam, when the boiler burst and pretty thoroughly demolished everything nearby. The fireman was severely wounded, and died yesterday morning. His wife, who happened to be near the boiler, was fearfully scalded, and it is reported that she is also dead. No other person was seriously injured. It is said by one who has been to the place since the accident occurred that the fragments of the boiler cut off trees as shells used to do in war-times.

How Betty Green "Squared It."

A year ago I called on Betty Green to ask about the benefactions of the richest woman in the world. "Do you give to organized charities?" I questioned.

"No, young man," the sharp old woman replied. "I give to private charities only. Some day, when I am rich enough, I shall square it all with the Lord by building a church up country where I was born." This church is now so nearly accomplished that no doubt the Lord acknowledges the "squareness" of the accounting.—Kansas City Star.

A Wrong Supposition.

"The people moved out of that house this morning, and that is the landlord just going in."

"He appears to have a great many prospective tenants."

"Prospective tenants, indeed! They are only neighbors going to see in what condition the people left the house."—London Fun.

THE ARYA SAMAJ.

It will be of interest to all earnest people to know that our antipodal neighbors are thinking on the great subject of religion and reaching conclusions that are in harmony with many of our own. Below is given the general beliefs of the Arya Samaj, a branch of reformed Hinduism:

First.—God is the original source of all true knowledge and of things comprehensible by it.

Second.—God is all existence, all intelligence and all bliss. He is incorporeal, omnipotent, just, beneficent, unincarnate, infinite, unchangeable, without beginning, incomparable, sustainer of all, Lord of all, omnipresent, omniscient, undecaying, immortal, fearless, eternal, holy and maker of the universe. He alone should be worshipped.

Third.—The Vedas are the books of true knowledge. It is the prime duty of all Aryas to read and teach them, to hear and preach them.

Fourth.—We should always be ready to accept truth and give up untruth.

Fifth.—All our actions must conform to Dharma—that is, we should act after a thorough consideration of right and wrong.

Sixth.—The primary object of the Arya Samaj is to do good to the world—i. e., to contribute to the physical, spiritual and social progress of all.

Seventh.—Every one should be treated with suitable regard and consideration.

Eighth.—We should dispel ignorance and advance knowledge.

Ninth.—No one should rest contented with his own welfare, but should seek for it in the welfare of others.

Tenth.—In matters which affect the social well being of all we should not allow our individuality to interfere, but in matters strictly personal every one may have his own way.

Chamberlain's Eye and Skin Ointment is unequalled for Eczema, Tetter, Salt-Rheum, Scald Head, Sore Nipples, Chapped Hands, Itching Piles, Burns, Frost Bites, Chronic Sore Eyes and Granulated Eye Lids. For sale by druggists at 25 cents per box.

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LODGE DIRECTORY.

Claremont Lodge, No. 64, A. F. M. Meets Thursday nights of each month, on or before the Full Moon. L. S. CARSON, W. M. H. C. MOSES, Secretary.

Beth Chapter, No. 25, R. A. M. Meets on First Tuesday of each month. L. S. CARSON, High Priest. F. M. SPANN, Secretary.

Gamecock Lodge, No. 17, K. of P. Meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock, except fifth Monday night. H. B. BLOOM, C. C. R. WALSH, K. of R. & S.

Sumter Lodge, No. 1077, K. of H. Meets every First and Third Monday nights at 7 o'clock. W. J. DURANT, Dic. H. C. MOSES, Rep'r.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 251, K. & L. of H. Meets every Second and Fourth Monday nights at 7 o'clock. J. S. HUGHSON, Protector. B. J. RHAME, Secretary.

Sumter Council, No. 649, A. L. of H. Meets every Second and Fourth Tuesday nights at 7 o'clock. W. F. RHAME, Com. J. N. CORBETT, Sec'y.

Sumter Lodge, No. 1, A. O. U. W. Meets every First and Third Thursday nights at 7 o'clock. H. C. MOSES, M. W. B. WALSH, Rec.

Pocahontas Tribe, No. 16, I. O. R. M. Meets every Friday's Sleep at the 5th Run. R. O. PURDY, Sachem. B. C. WALLACE, C. of R.

Sumter Council, No. 7 Jr. O. U. A. M. Meets on Second and Fourth Tuesday nights of each month at 8 o'clock. WM. YEADON, Councillor. B. C. WALLACE, Sec'y.

Holly Wood Camp, W. of W. Meets every Third Wednesday night at 8 o'clock. E. W. HURST, Con. Com. R. S. HOOD, Clerk.

Carolina Council, No. 515, C. B. L. Meets every Second and Fourth Wednesday in Monaghan Block. NEIL O'DONNELL, Pres. A. H. EBERHART, Sec.

Chucuala Lodge, No. 261, O. G. C. Meets Second and Fourth Wednesday nights at 8 o'clock. G. N. MARSHALL, Com. B. C. WALLACE, Secty.

All of the above societies hold their meetings at the Masonic Temple, except when otherwise specified.



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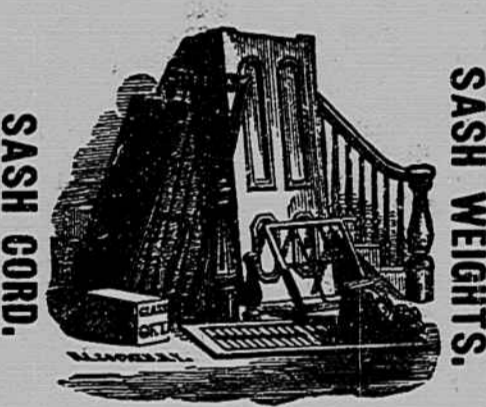
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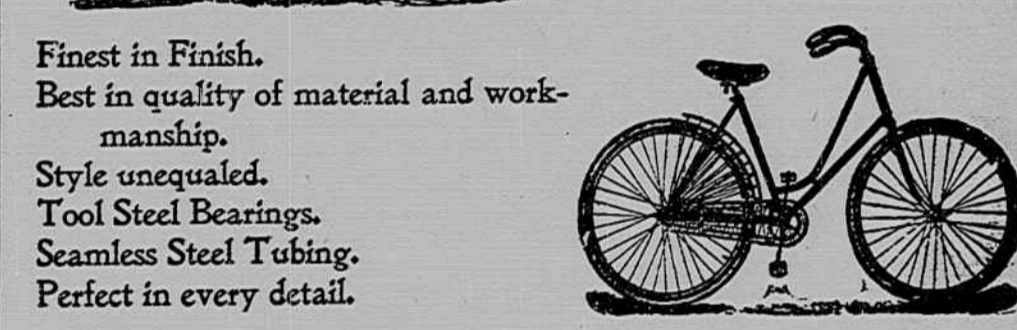
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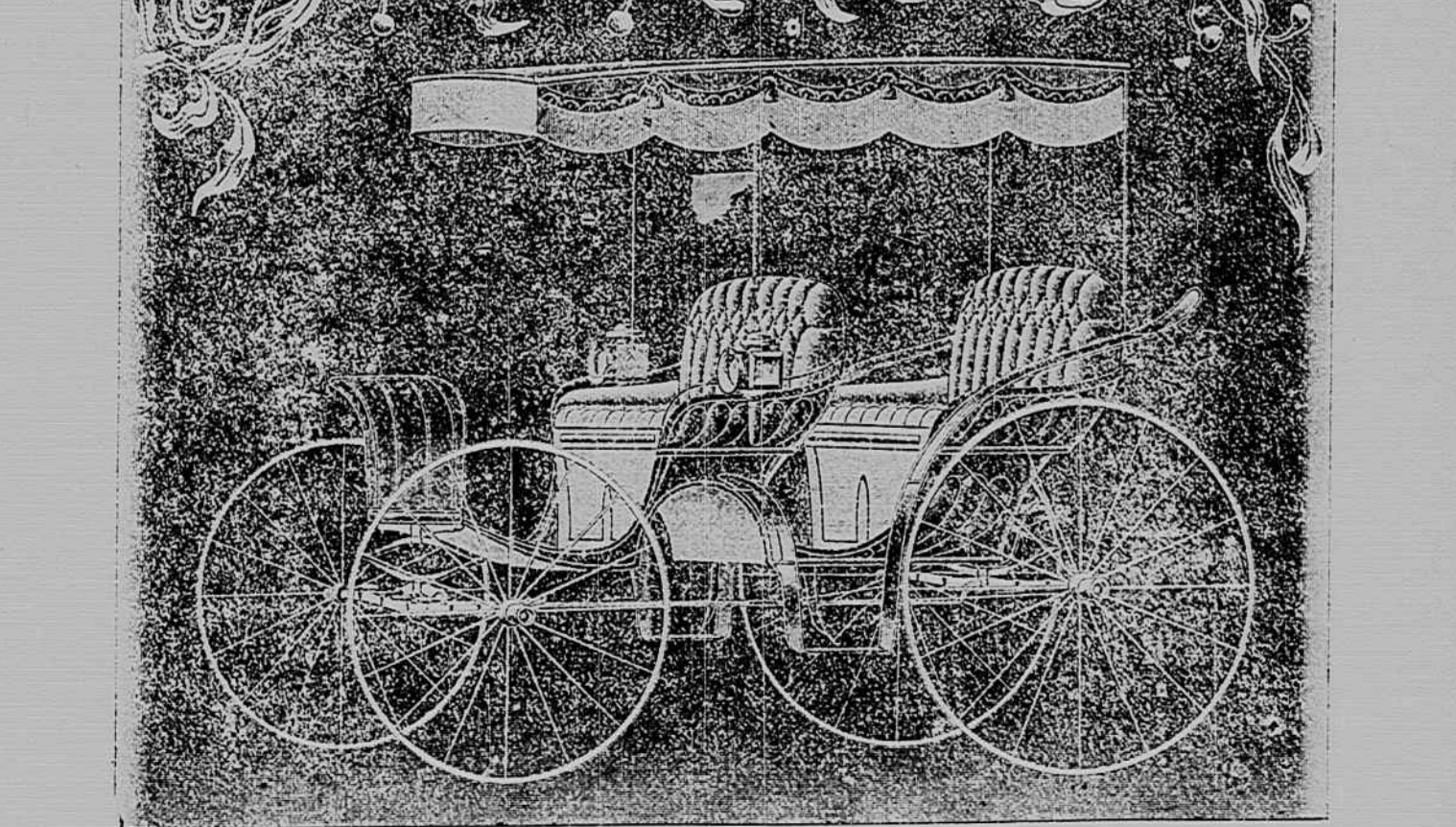
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