The Fairfield News and Herald.

VOL. XLIII. WINNSBORO, S. C., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1886. NO. 16.

THE FARMERS' CONVENTION.

A GENERAL GATHERING OF DELEGATES AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

A Permanent Organization—What is Demanded of the General Assembly—The Proceedings in Detail.

The State Farmers' Convention met in Agricultural Hall, Columbia, on Tuesday, the 9th inst., and was called to order by Capt. B. R. Tillman, of Edgefield.

Capt. Tillman then proceeded to read an address of which the Columbia Register makes the following synopsis:

Capt. Tillman stated that owing to his having been called upon frequently to speak throughout the State the past summer, he had acquired somewhat a facility for extemporaneous speaking, but that as he could not follow his subject with that force of statement and logical sequence that he observed in his writings, he would not attempt to address the Convention extemporaneously. He, therefore, had written an address, and would read it before the Convention. He then read the address, which, to begin with, alluded to the success with which the effort to organize a farmers' movement had met, notwithstanding the opposition the undertaking had received from the beginning. That opposition came usually from those who held fast to the public teat, and it was natural for them to squeal when they felt it slipping from their teeth. [Applause.] He said, however, that despite the cold water thrown on the movement it would be a success and would result in unbounded benefit to the agricultural interests of the State, which, he was sorry to confess, had gone down year by year until the situation was appalling. The organization of the farmers would unite them, and by their meetings and the effectous plans they would certainly devise the gloom would be dispelled and the agriculture of the State be put on a healthy footing. If nothing else the methods of our agriculture would be changed and something done to avert absolute ruin. The farmers, he stated, were ground to powder between the millstones of Western competition on the one hand and borrowing money at a high of interest with which to make their crops on the other. The organization of the farmers would go far towards remedying that mighty evil which threatened to overwhelm the agriculture of this State.

It had been charged, he said, that the farmers' movement was a political one, but it had no more politics in it than the farmers of the State had a right to assimilate with it. He himself was opposed to mixing politics with the movement if the farmers could get their rights without it, but the farmers now intended to right their wrongs, and that was all they asked. [Applause.] The political features of the movement were to call attention to the needs of the farmers and place the situation as it is before those in authority. He felt pretty sure that their demands would be heeded, and in case they got what they wanted they would be satisfied, but should they not receive the relief they ask at the proper hands they would rise in their might and take what they wanted. [Applause.] He thought, however, that they would get all they asked, and stated that as one result of the movement numbers of members had been elected to the Legislature, pledged to their ideas of reform.

The principal thing the farmer asked was the reduction of the taxes which burden him, and the adoption of a less expensive system in conducting the government of the State. They wanted abolished all offices which had been established for old fossils and broken down gentry, and he predicted that something in this line would be done when the Legislature meets. [Applause.] He protested that his remarks cast no reflection on present incumbents, but were intended to call attention to useless offices now existing under our government.

He advocated the total divorce of the Agricultural Department from politics, and wants it placed in the hands to which it properly belongs, namely, practical, experienced farmers. The demands of the farmers were that the Agricultural Department, belonging by rights to them, should be turned over to them. [Applause.] He maintained that farmers were intelligent enough to manage their affairs, and that if the leading men in the ranks would come to the front and consult they would not have to go to lawyers to know how to get their politics and be told how to vote.

The establishment of an Agricultural College, said he, would go far towards giving educated farmers to the State, and would disseminate that scientific and practical knowledge which the State so much needed. He remarked that he had a letter from General Stephen D. Lee, in which the General informed him that a college similar to the Agricultural College of Mississippi would cost, exclusive of the grounds and experimental farm, $100,000. Captain Tillman believed that the $30,000 raised from the privilege tax on fertilizers and the fund arising from the land script, in addition to a small appropriation from the State, would be ample to support the college and have all the work done that is now done by the Agricultural Department.

In conclusion he urged conservatism upon the farmers in their demands, and expressed his confidence in legislation to remedy the evils they complain of. If these wrongs were not righted they would be on hand two years hence, and see that they would not be bamboozled in the next choice of officials. [Applause.]

Mr. J. B. Watson of Anderson nominated Senator W. J. Talbert, of Edgefield, for temporary president (he being the caucus nominee) and that gentleman was unanimously elected by acclamation.

Mr. Talbert took his position at the Reporters' table and briefly returned his thanks to the Convention.

Messrs. J. T. Duncan, of Newberry, and W. P. Addison, of Abbeville, were unanimously elected secretaries.

Capt. Tillman now moved that the roll of counties be called and that the chairman of each delegation announce the names of those sent to the Convention from his county, and that such names be enrolled as delegates. Adopted.

The enrolment occupied some time. No credentials were submitted. The counties of Aiken, Barnwell, Beaufort, Chesterfield, Georgetown, Horry, Hampton and York were unrepresented, and Union was only represented by one alternate. Richland had a large delegation, and Charleston one above the average size.

The enrolment lasted until 1.15 P. M. When it had been completed Mr. Shell, of Laurens, said that a number of delegates were absent at the Fair and he therefore proposed that after selecting a committee on credentials the Convention take a recess until 8 P. M. Mr. Shell's motion was carried, so amended that the Convention should reconvene at 7.30 P. M.

Mr. Ward, of Laurens, moved that the Chair appoint a member from each county to serve on the credentials committee. Mr. Fishburne, of Colleton, secured the adoption of an amendment providing that each delegation elect its own committeeman, and in this shape the resolution was carried.

The following members constituted the committee: Abbeville, A. W. Jones; Anderson, J. A. Hall; Berkeley, J. W. L. Clement; Charleston, G. L. Homes; Chester, E. P. Moore; Colleton, L. E. Parker; Clarendon, J. E. Tindal; Darlington, W. E. McKnight; Edgefield, B. R. Tillman; Fairfield, Samuel McCorkle; Greenville, H. G. Gilreath; Kershaw, G. W. Mosely; Lexington, Isaiah Haltiwanger; Laurens, J. M. Hudgens; Marion, F. C. Crawford; Marlboro, J. B. Green; Newberry, H. H. Folk; Oconee, J. J. Keith; Orangeburg, F. D. Bates; Pickens, H. C. Shelly; Richland, J. H. Kinsler; Spartanburg, H. L. Farley; Sumter, A. R. Sanders; Union, John P. Thomas; Williamsburg, H. A. Eaddy.

At 1.30 the Convention took a recess, and the committee on credentials, with Dr. J. E. Tindal as chairman, began its session.

Night Session.

The Convention was called to order at 7.30 o'clock.

Dr. Tindal, of Clarendon, moved that the temporary organization be made permanent, and that afterwards the constitution be adopted and permanent officers be elected under it. Capt. Tillman spoke for this substitute, and it was carried.

The temporary officers having been made permanent, the constitution for the Farmers' Association of South Carolina was then read by Col. E. T. Stackhouse, of Marion. A gentleman from Williamsburg moved to vote on it by sections, but by a vote of 34 to 31 the Convention refused to do so.

Capt. Tillman stated that he and Col. Stackhouse had prepared the constitution, but he said he had no objection to having its sections voted on separately. The Convention adopted the constitution as a whole, as follows:

PREAMBLE.

We, the farmers of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, recognizing the wisdom of the saying that in union there is strength, have determined to form an organization for our mutual protection and benefit.

Its objects shall be the promotion of all branches of agriculture and the inauguration of a more rational and remunerative system of farming. These ends are to be secured by organizing agricultural clubs throughout the State to meet and discuss the situation, and then bring the influence of the organized farmers to bear upon the State government so as to obtain protection against fraud and imposition, and to secure that fostering care so imperatively demanded by our languishing agricultural interest.

While we shall as much as possible eschew politics, legislation which affects the farmers injuriously or overlooks them entirely will be our first care till a remedy be had. We claim the right to do this as citizens and taxpayers and invoke the assistance of all classes and professions in securing reform in our government and in placing our agricultural interests on a more secure and prosperous foundation.

To this end we have adopted the following:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be known as the Farmers' Association of South Carolina.

ART. II. The officers of this Association shall be a President, seven Vice-Presidents—one from each Congressional District—a Secretary and Treasurer and an Executive Committee of nine—one from each Congressional District and two at large—all to be chosen by the members of this Association at the annual meeting in November, and to hold their offices for one year, or until their successors are duly elected: provided, that the Executive Committee hold their office one, two and three years, three being elected annually.

The first committee shall determine by lot the length of their respective terms.

ART. III. The President shall have a general supervision of the affairs of the Association; shall preside at its meetings, preserve order, and regulate its discussions according to ordinary parliamentary rules, and shall be ex officio a member of all committees. In his absence one of the Vice-Presidents shall act.

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Association, keep a record of its proceedings, as also those of the Executive Committee, and attend to the correspondence.

The Treasurer shall receive and keep an account of all funds, and pay out the same by order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary, making an annual report of such receipts and expenditures to the Association.

ART. IV. The Executive Committee shall have the general management and control of all business of the Association, shall prepare and issue a programme for its annual meetings, and make all needed arrangements therefor. They shall take whatever steps they may deem proper to secure the organization of farmers' clubs in every County of the State, every Township if possible, and until this is done they may appoint organizers to do this work.

ART. V. The regular annual meetings of the Association shall be held in the city of Columbia the second Tuesday in November, and special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee when deemed necessary.

ART. VI. Each County Central Farmers' Association shall be entitled to five representatives, who shall be elected by said Associations at their October meetings in each year. Where no organization exists, a mass meeting of farmers may elect delegates, but this shall only be allowed once, as the value of this Association will depend on its permanent character.

Each County Association shall determine for itself the qualifications of its members, and shall meet at least four times a year, and they shall not charge more than fifty cents per member for annual dues.

The Governor of the State shall be ex officio an honorary member of this Association.

ART. VII. There shall be a standing committee of one for each County, elected by his delegation immediately after the organization is completed, to whom all resolutions or business propositions are to be referred without debate, and this committee shall prepare business and be empowered to make such recommendations as it shall see fit, to be acted upon by the Association.

ART. VIII. This constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

We also adopt the following:

BY-LAWS.

First. The President shall appoint all committees, unless the Association shall determine otherwise.

Second. The Executive Committee may fill all vacancies occurring in any office, as also in their own number, until the next annual meeting.

Third. Elections for officers shall be by ballot.

Fourth. A fee of five dollars shall be paid annually by each County Association sending delegates, and the delegates from no county will be allowed to vote until this fee is paid.

Fifth. The regular order of business shall be:

1st. Roll call and enrolling delegates.
2d. Reading minutes of last meeting.
3d. Correspondence.
4th. Report of special committees.
5th. Report of standing committees.
6th. Unfinished business.
7th. New business.

Sixth. These by-laws may be altered, amended or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers followed. Mr. Boyd, of Darlington, nominated Capt. B. R. Tillman for president. Capt. Tillman said that he felt that he could do more for the cause he had at heart by serving in the ranks or in some other capacity than in the presidency; he, therefore, begged to decline.

Mr. Farley, of Spartanburg, nominated Mr. D. K. Norris, of Anderson. A delegate nominated President Talbert, who declined. On motion of Mr. Fishburne, the Chair cast the unanimous vote of the Convention for Mr. Norris. The announcement of the vote was greeted with hearty applause, which was resumed when Mr Norris was escorted to the chair by Messrs. Boyd, Tillman and Tindal.

On taking the chair Mr. Norris expressed his high sense or the honor which had been conferred upon him in his selection to preside over so representative a body of South Carolinians. It would be the privilege of the members of the Convention, as citizens, to consider the things that affected them as citizens, and looking to their interests as agriculturalists to advance them without antagonizing other interests. It would be their duty to consider as farmers and to suggest to the General Assembly measures for the relief of the farming interests. They had gone to the practical walks of life for a man to fill their chair, and with a knowledge of his inexperience he relied upon their indulgence of his shortcomings as an officer.

The other officers elected were as follows:

Vice-Presidents—Col. R. S. Bedon, of Colleton, for the First Congressional District; Hon. W. J. Talbert, of Edgefield, for the Second District; Capt. Joel Beard, of Oconee, for the Third District; C. W. Shell, of Laurens, for the Fourth District; W. A. Anerum, of Kershaw, for the Fifth District; Gen. E. T. Stackhouse, of Marion, for the Sixth District; Dr. E. J. Rembert, of Sumter, for the Seventh District.

Secretary—J. T. Duncan, of Newberry.

Treasurer—W. P. Addison, of Abbeville.

The standing committee was elected as follows: Abbeville, J. Thornton; Anderson, J. B. Watson; Berkeley, F. Y. Legare; Charleston, W. H. Kinsman; Chester, C. W. McFadden; Colleton, F. C. Fishburne; Clarendon, J. E. Tindal; Darlington, J. W. Beasley; Edgefield, B. R. Tillman; Fairfield, W. R. Rabb; Greenville, W. B. Buist; Hampton, Geo. Mosely; Lexington, H. J. Seibels; Laurens, John W. Hudgens; Lancaster, R. L. Mickler; Orangeburg, J. E. Wannamaker; Sumter, A. K. Sanders; Union, John P. Thomas; Williamsburg, F. M. Britton; Marion, E. T. Stackhouse; Marlboro, R. W. Pegues; Newberry, J. C. Goggans; Oconee, J. J. Keith; Pickens, H. C. Shirley; Richland, J. H. Kinsler; Spartanburg, H. L. Farley.

A number of resolutions, touching upon various matters, were now introduced, and referred to the standing committee.

The Convention then adjourned till 9½ o'clock on the morning of the 10th instant.

Second Day.

The Convention assembled at 9½ o'clock, but took a recess till eleven o'clock, in order to hear the report of the committee on resolutions. Capt. Tillman read this report, as follows:

THE PLATFORM.

After due consideration of the various resolutions referred to us, and taking into consideration the power invested in us to make independent recommendations of our own volition, we submit the following platform as embodying the substance of such resolutions as were acted upon favorably by the committee, and as indicating the reforms and measures which we deem of great importance to our interests as farmers and citizens:

We, the farmers of South Carolina in Convention assembled, after mature deliberation and after all the light and experience gained since our last Convention from the fullest discussion among ourselves as to the general objects to be attained, hereby express our continued and unshaken confidence in our Farmers' Association as now organized to accomplish great good for the State if properly conducted and kept within legitimate bounds, and we hereby reiterate our determination that there shall be henceforth in South Carolina an organization for the protection and advancement of our agricultural interests.

In furtherance of this purpose and as embodying the present views of the State, we respectfully urge upon our General Assembly the necessity and advisability of the following measures:

1. The establishment of a real agricultural college, separate and distinct from the South Carolina College, and modeled after those of Mississippi and Michigan. We believe that the necessary funds to build and equip this institution can be secured by lopping off needless expenditures, and abolishing or consolidating useless offices without increased taxation. We further recommend, as a means to assist in building the institution, that the different counties of the State be empowered to bid for it by offering bonds or land.

2. That an experimental station should be established at or in connection with said Agricultural and Mechanical College, the same to be under the charge of its faculty, and that we memorialize Congress to pass the bill introduced by Mr. Hatch and now pending, which appropriates $15,000 annually to each State for the purpose, and that we ask our Senators and Congressmen to use all legitimate means to secure its passage.

3. That in order that our agricultural administration may be divorced as far as possible from politics and politicians, and the men best qualified to perform these important duties be selected by those most competent to judge, in order that we may secure a board of agriculture at once efficient, zealous and representative, who know our needs and will try to supply them, we urge that instead of being chosen by the Legislature they be elected by this Farmers' Association. The board of agriculture should consist of ten members, five elected annually. They should have the power to elect their own secretary, whose duties would correspond with those of the present commissioner. Their duties would be the same as the law imposes on our present board, except as the collection of the phosphate royalty, which should be given to the comptroller-general. In addition they should have control of the agricultural college and experimental station, and should by means of farmers' institutes build up and keep alive coming agricultural associations.

4. That the system of inspection of fertilizers is now defective, and no adequate punishment for frauds provided. We therefore urge such additional legislation as will secure the needed protection without imposing unnecessary restraints upon the manufacture and sale of fertilizers. Cotton seed meal, whether sold as a fertilizer or as feed for stock, should be inspected and its adulteration punished.

5. We urge the Legislature not to squander the State's property by allowing the wholesale exportation of phosphates at merely nominal prices, and that with a view of lessening the burdens of taxation, they take into consideration the advisability of increasing the phosphate royalty.

6. We recommend the passage of such legislation as will protect the farmers of the State against imposition and fraud in the weighing of cotton.

7. We respectfully urge such legislation as will protect us against forest fires negligently started.

8. The equalization of taxes demands earnest consideration at the hands of the Legislature, and we urge such action as can best secure it.

9. We urge such alterations of the fee bill as will guard the estates of dead persons against abuses and provide protection for widows and orphans.

10. In order to secure the needed reforms in our county governments and to reduce the burden of taxation, as well as to secure such changes in the judicial system as may be needed, we earnesily request our legislators to consider the advisability of calling a constitutional convention, unless, in their judgment, the necessary changes may be better obtained by amendment.

After the reading of the platform a motion was made to take it up by sections. This excited some discussion, and a division was demanded on the question, resulting yeas 39, nays 23.

The platform was then read by sections, and was adopted. During the progress of the reading there were one or two short discussions.

The platform was then adopted as a whole.

AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The following resolutions, adopted by the Anderson Farmers' Club, were referred to the committee:

Resolved, That the Novemb Convention be urged to demand of our next Legislature the establishment of an agricultural college separate and distinct from the South Carolina College.

Resolved, That we ask for a reorganization of the department of agriculture in the interests of economy and of the farmers of the State.

THE FACTORS AND THE USURY LAW.

Mr. H. R. Thomas introduced the following resolution, which was also referred:

Whereas the usury law has had no effect in cheapening money, but has shut the farmers out from obtaining the same and turning us over to the outrageous charges of the cotton factors and merchants, amounting to from 30 to 100 per cent.:

And, whereas, these laws force the farmers to exchange cotton for goods, enabling the merchant to fix the price of the farmers' produce and to exact the price of his goods, thus doing away with the circulation of money among the farmers, to the detriment of the whole country:

Therefore we recommend the repeal of the usury law.

ABOUT LITIGATION.

The following was introduced by a delegate whose name could not be obtained:

Resolved, That plaintiffs in referees' Courts be required to give bond for sufficient amount to cover probable costs of suit.

The committee on resolutions reported a paper, submitted by Dr. Rembert, with the recommendation that it be published and that its consideration be deferred until the next meeting.

PAYING EXPENSES.

After some debate, an assessment of one dollar was laid upon each delegate, to pay the expenses of the Convention—which the treasurer proceeded to collect.

A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Capt. Tillman then moved that a committee of five be appointed to take steps to have the legislation recommended by the Convention presented to the General Assembly, and passed, if possible. This evoked another discussion.

Capt. Stackhouse thought that the executive committee should be entrusted with the work.

Another delegate thought that a committee of three would be sufficient. Their expenses would have to be paid, and as the farmers had been preaching retrenchment it would be as to well practice it right here.

Finally it was agreed that the committee should consist of three members, to be selected from the executive committee.

THE NEW AGRICULTURAL BOARD.

Capt. Tillman next suggested that it would be necessary to be prepared with an agricultural board in case the Legislature decided to turn the bureau over to the Association, as recommended in the platform. He moved that the committee on resolutions be instructed to name ten members of the Association, who by reason of their character, ability, earnestness and zeal will command the respect of the farmers of the State as fit to be the first board of the reorganized bureau.

This evoked a long discussion, in which Capt. Tillman took an active part, explaining his views and intentions. The motion was finally adopted with an amendment requiring the names to be submitted to the Convention for confirmation.

A LOVEFEAST.

Capt. Tillman next, with an apology for the frequency of his occupancy of the floor, stated that it was known that in some of his letters published last winter he had used words in reference to the State Agricultural Society which might be considered too strong. He said he had been honest in what he had said. It was stated by many of the members of the State Society that this Association was antagonistic to that body, and was intended to supersede it. He for one remembered that during the dark days of Radical rule in the State, the State Agricultural Society was perhaps the only organized body of white men in the State. He desired to deny that he had the least feeling of resentment or distrust for that society. He desired that harmony and concert of action should exist between the two bodies, and with that view he moved that a committee of three be appointed to invite the State Agricultural Society to meet this Association in joint convention—a kind of lovefeast—this evening at 7.30 o'clock, in order that there might be a union of the two wings of the grand army of farmers. [Applause.] The motion was unanimously adopted, and the Convention then took a recess until 7.30 P. M.

Evening Session.

At half-past 7 about one hundred members reassembled at the Hall and the meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. D. K. Norris.

The first business before the expected lovefeast was the announcement of a new board of agriculture in case the Legislature should adopt the recommendation of the Convention and transfer the management of the bureau of agriculture to the Farmers' Association.

The appointments, as announced by the committee on business, are: D. K. Norris, Anderson; M. L. Donaldson, Greenville; E. T. Stackhouse, Marion; B. R. Tillman, Edgefield; D. P. Duncan, Union; Allan Johnson, Newberry; Johnson Hagood, Barnwell; R. A. Love, Chester; E. L. Reeves, Charleston; A. E. Davis, Fairfield.

On motion of Mr. Shell, of Laurens, the report of the committee was adopted and the appointments were confirmed.

The members of the Convention were then requested to occupy the chairs on the left of the hall, leaving those on the right for the members of the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society, who had been invited to attend a joint meeting, and a recess was taken until 8 o'clock.

At twenty-eight minutes past 8 o'clock Captain Tillman moved to adjourn. A delegate asked what had become of the lovefeast at which the State Agricultura and Mechanical Society was to have assisted. The chairman replied that the Convention had expected them at 8 o'clock and had waited for them; that much to his regret they had not appeared, and as the hall had been promised to the Survivors of the Wallace House at half-past 8 o'clock he didn't see how the Convention could wait.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned sine die.

—The reporter of the News and Courier adds this statement: "Without being informed as to the causes which prevented the attendance of the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society, I venture to say that the joint meeting proposed was impracticable for the reason that the Society was not in session, its annual meeting being appointed for the next night. No doubt the proper explanations will be made."

NIGHT GLOVES REVIVED.

Modern Beauties Said to Be Returning to Fashions of the Last Century.

The remarkable discovery has recently been made that "white hands are coming into fashion again," says London Queen. It would seem that hands have been growing less white than they used to be, and have suffered from too great attachment in ladies to lawn tennis and boating and other masculine accomplishments. Chapped and red hands are never pretty, and these, of course, invariably follow on outdoor exercises. The evil is, happily, not beyond remedy, and to offset this purpose "the daughters of fashion," as many of them will learn with surprise, now have dishes of hot water shaped like a flower leaf on their toilet tables, in which they steep their hands for a while before going to bed, then anoint them with vaseline and put on gloves lined with a preparation of cold cream. These gloves should be of wash leather and several sizes too large for the hand.

Before the paragraph has gone its tardy round in print these night gloves will surely be made an instance of the amazing luxury of our degenerate days, and point, we may be sure, a very doleful moral. In the absence of any general knowledge on this point, the ladies of fashion will be looked upon as having originated a pernicious practice, which, together with the toilet masks of which we recently heard so much and saw so little, might indicate a lamentable degree of overrefinement, such as we should certainly be reminded has invariably preceded the decay of empires.

The old receipt for perfuming gloves runs: Take amber grease a dram, civet the like quantity, orange flower butter a quarter of an ounce, and with these well mixed and ordered daub them over gently with fine cotton wool, and so press the perfume into them. Other devices for making them "richly redolent" point generally to the use of oil or fats as being the best available and most largely employed means to secure a good and lasting perfume. As for such gloves being considered excellent for night use we have the lines in Swift's poem on "The Lady's Dressing Room," showing on the table:

There night gloves made of Tripsey's hide,
Bequeath'd by Tripsey when she died.

Where a lady's maid is reassuring her mistress in a poem of 1790, as to her own superiority over a rival, the maid says:

I know the arts she labors to disguise,
I know whence all her boasted graces rise:
Those charms which gained the creature such renown,
Are culled from every quarter of the town;
She buys her beauties at a price immense,
Her breath from Warren and her teeth from Spence;
Each night her face is wrapped in greasy hands,
And Chinese gloves enfold her arms and hands;
If such a madeup thing can rival thee,
Let park canals strive with the foaming sea:
Let Oxford hacks with Pegasus compare,
And broad St. Giles' vie with Portman square.

There would be some suspicion of chemical treatment about such gloves. Although a French philosopher some time ago asserted that glovers, of all artisans, were the most mild and amiable, owing to the soothing influence of leather upon temperament, this discovery had not been made when Chinese gloves were in vogue, and more direct agencies acting upon the outer man or woman were all that were sought after. "Medicated" gloves are used by Dr. Johnson's born beauty in the 120th Rambler, the doctor probably not knowing much of toilet mysteries. This young lady is represented as always most carefully tended and put under rigid cosmetic discipline at night, never permitted to sleep until thoroughly anointed with "beau flower water and May dew," her hair perfumed and oiled, and the softness of her hands secured by medicated gloves.

The National Grange.

PHILADELPHIA, November 11.—The National Grange of Patrons of Husbandry opened the morning work of the second day's session with the continuation of the call of the roll of Masters of State Granges, who report on the condition of the State bodies under their supervision. The majority of the reports showed the State bodies to be in a flourishing condition, only a few giving evidence of falling off in interest and work. The best report was presented by the Master Granger of Maine, where exists the best organization and largest increase in membership, as well as the best methods for carrying on the work of the Order. Upwards of 500 delegates were present, nearly half of them women.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH.

SOME SEASONABLE SUGGESTIONS FROM HIGH AUTHORITY.

What Work the Good Farmers Should Do in the Month of November—An Interesting Article From an Intelligent Writer.

(W. L. Jones in the November "Cultivator.")

In the southern portions of the cotton belt, oats and wheat may still be sown; in some sections it is the best time to start these crops. But in the northern portions of the belt, it is too late to sow anything but wheat, rye and barley—too late for clover and the winter grasses. Cotton planters delay the sowing of wheat, until the cotton is picked out, both because, while that work is progressing it absorbs all the available labor, and because wheat usually follows cotton, and the plough in cannot be done till the cotton is out of the way. This makes the sowing of wheat come on a little later than is desirable. Fear of the fly justifies delay till after frost, but the sooner after frost wheat is sown the better. The plant needs time, while the weather is still mild to develop roots and push them well into the soil and get a good strong foothold. Some think that deep covering of grains makes them stand cold better; our observations do not accord with this belief. Wheat, oats, etc., have little stem beneath the surface—if covered deep they soon throw out a circle of roots near the surface and the part below dies. But while the stem does not extend downwards much, the roots may, and often do, penetrate the soil to considerable depths. This not only establishes the plant firmly, but puts the ends of the roots (which are their main food-absorbing part) beyond the reach of the severest cold. In our climate the ground is not often frozen more than two or three inches; only in very extreme cases does the freezing extend to a depth of five or six inches. Root growth, therefore, can go on most of the time during winter; and this it does, though the part above ground makes little progress. The roots are gathering materials and lapping the foundation during the winter for a vigorous growth of the plant in early spring; and this is just what is needed, in our climate, to hasten maturity and escape the rust. The greater yield of fall, as compared with spring oats, illustrates the advantages of this root growth during the latter part of autumn and through the winter. The part above ground may be sharply cut down by the cold, but that which is beneath and at the surface goes on accumulating and storing material out of which the stalk, blades and ear rapidly develop in the spring; just as the flowering stalk of a turnip shoots up in a few days from its enlarged underground root, in which material for growth had been stored the preceding autumn.

It is gratifying to note an increasing desire and disposition among our farmers to raise needed supplies at home. Bread and meat head the list of these, and as we are a wh at-eating people, it is extremely desirable that varieties adapted to our climate should be discovered or developed. Every plant we cultivate does, or may, acquire special adaption to any locality in which it can grow at all. Note the varieties of corn North and South, the rust proof oat of the South and the several kinds at the North. Rye from the Northwest fails utterly in the South, even though one cannot detect any difference in appearance of seed or other parts of the plant. The same holds in case of fruits and vegetables. With these facts before us, is it unreasonable to suppose that a variety or varieties of wheat might be developed at the South, thoroughly adapted to its soils and climates? Why should wheat form an exception? It has been localized in other portions of the world; the Mediterranean wheats grown for centuries in southern Europe and in Egypt are marked varieties compared with those northern regions. Why may not the cotton States have corresponding varieties adapted to them? If farmers would examine their wheat fields carefully before harvest, and when rust prevails gather the heads of those stalks which are entirely or most nearly free from rust, sow the seed from these by themselves the next season, and again select as before, and continue doing thus for a few years, we have little doubt a rust-proof variety could be established. Further selection of the most prolific stalks with best developed seed would carry the improvement still further. Time would be saved and chances of success increased by starting with varieties—like the Mediterranean—which have already become accustomed to warm climates.

In the meantime, those varieties may be sown which the concurrent testimony of a neighborhood shows to have succeeded best in it. As stated before, the seeding down should be done as early in November as possible. Wheat follows cotton admirably, and the highest, dryest land should be selected for it. The surface soil, to a depth of three or four inches, should be brought into the finest tilth by plowing, rolling and harrowing. Whatever manure is used should be thoroughly incorporated with this surface soil. If cotton seed is applied, it should be plowed in with the wheat. Commercial fertilizers may be plowed in shallow or harrowed in. In olden times, fifty bushels of cotton seed to the acre was regarded as a safe guarantee of a good crop, even on poor land. Thirty bushels of cotton seed and one hundred and fifty pounds of acid phosphate per acre is preferable to fifty bushels of seed alone. Three hundred pounds of cotton seed meal is about equivalent to thirty bushels of seed, and may be substituted in place of them. The above quantities of manure may be applied at the time of seeding. In the spring it may sometimes be desirable and profitable to give a light top-dressing of phosphates, nitrate of soda and kainit or salt. During winter it is well to roll wheat with a heavy roller, after every unusually hard freeze as soon as the ground is entirely thawed. The freezing, even when it does not lift the plant out of the ground, destroys the necessary contact of the roots with the soil, and interferes with their absorption of water food.

If, by the use of proper sieves, the small, imperfect grains are removed from the seed wheat, one bushel of seed is enough for an acre. Well trained hands can sow seed very uniformly, but as a rule it would pay a farmer to have a seed-sower. Some of these are cheap enough to be within the reach of all, and the rapidity and uniformity of their sowing soon pays for them. Irregular sowing and irregular covering, so that a part of the young plants die out from overcrowding, and a part of the seed never comes up from being covered with clods or something else, have caused a great waste of seed. It is probable that from small, defective seed, irregular sowing and improper covering, one-fourth or more of the seed sown is practically lost. After due preparation, sow the seed, plow in lightly—not more than two inches, if necessary harrow—and finish up by rolling the land.

The frequent destruction of fall oats by cold has discouraged the fall sowing of oats and a partial substitute is very desirable, especially in the northern portions of the cotton belt. Barley appears to be the best within reach. It is very hardy; seldom injured by cold and supplies a very excellent feed for horses. The unsettled question is, in what shape and how to feed it? We have seen it stated that, in California, horses are turned loose on a stack of barley as cows are upon a stack of hay or straw. After barley is threshed and the beard is broken off the grains, the latter could certainly be fed like any other grain. Cannot some reader throw the light of experience on this point? If barley is sown on ordinary land without fertilization, not more than one and a half or two bushels should be sown on an acre; and November is a good month to sow it when the object is not grazing or soiling, but the production of grain and straw. It should always, however, be sown on the best land that is available, and more or less manuring will pay, as it does on almost every crop. As there is great certainty of not being winter killed and the crop is as free from casualties as any grown, one can very trustingly apply manure to it. Since writing the above, Judge Betts, the Commissioner of Agriculture of Alabama, has informed us that for twenty years he has raised barley for horse-feed in northern Alabama with great success, and feeds it just as he feeds sheaf oats. With barley as with rye, it is important to sow home-grown seed. Most of the seed obtained from the North is spring-raised, and will not do well in our climate. The May birds are the greatest enemy to this crop. They usually pass through our section when the barley is in milk, and prove quite destructive. Boys and shotguns are the best remedies.

As cold weather approaches, suitable provision should be made for the care of stock. Close barns and cellars are rarely needed in our warm climate; but shelter from cold rains and barriers against cold winds are imperatively called for. Simple shelters planked up, or even well brushed up on the north and west sides, will answer every purpose. They may be constructed of poles, to be had on every farm, and covered with plank roofs, which can be taken down when the winter is over and stored away under shelter until the next season. Thus managed, they will last a very long time.

The usual practice in feeding "roughness" is to throw it on the ground, and let the cows pick over and trample upon it, and the tramping usually exceeds the picking. It is a most wasteful practice. A better, and at same time inexpensive and convenient method is to have racks, with the slats near together—not wide enough apart to admit the cow's nose, but only its tongue, so that it can pull out only a little at a time. It not only prevents waste from forage being pulled out and trod under foot, but enables the animals to tear off pieces small enough to be chewed—to divide a shuck, for instance, into several mouthfuls.

It is also very desirable to supply animals with water, not too cold during cold weather. Cows drink a large quantity of water, and when the latter is nearly at the freezing point, it has to be warmed up in the stomach by animal heat—raised, say forty to one hundred degrees. Now, animal heat is generaatd from food, and if an animal drinks much cold water, it must eat more food wherewith to warm it. If practicable, water should be conducted in a pipe, some distance underground, from a spring to the lot. It would thus get within reach of animals at a temperature of about sixty degrees. Such an arrangement would also insure animals against the neglect of servants in supplying water or of supplying it regularly. If one considers the time consumed in drawing water from a well and carrying it to animals, or in leading animals to a watering trough day after day and year after year, how long would the labor and time thus expended run up a bill of costs in excess of that of the piping and other fixtures requisite to convey it warm and fresh to every stall?

The remarks about warm water for stock apply with equal force to warm food as against cold. The practice of cooking food, which at one time was largely practiced, from the belief that its nutritiousness and digestibility were largely increased thereby, has advantage in the matter of heat, though shown by experiment not to be superior to uncooked food in other respects. Under some circumstances it might be more economical to warm the food of cows in extremely cold weather by cooking or steaming, than to have the animal warm it by consuming more food. As a rule wood and coal are cheaper than forage and grain.

It is sometimes the case that cooking or steaming is decidedly advantageous by imparting the flavor of the more palatable to that which is less so, in a mixed ration. Wheat straw, for instance, abounds in hydro-carbons, but is deficient in nitrogen; cotton seed meal abounds in nitrogen; the two supplement each other and make a good feed. But if fed separately, an animal would not eat the straw well, because it is not palatable food; it is defective in flavor. The quantity of cotton seed meal proper for an animal is too small to be mixed well with the necessary amount of straw, even when the latter is cut up. But steaming will impart the flavor of the meal to as much straw as is desirable. The compounding of different kinds of feed in proper proportions, is not only desirable for the health and thrift of animals, but extremely important in an economical point of view. Excess of any one ingredient of food above its due proportion is not appropriated by the animal, and is practically lost. The subject is too large, however, for development here, and must be reserved for a future number.

Proceedings of the Postmasters.

The convention of third and fourth class postmasters of South Carolina was held last night at Stanley's Hall. The convention organized as follows:

President—F. A. Schiffley, postmaster at Orangeburg. Vice-Presidents—D. O. Herbert of Newberry, W. C. Rose of Timmonsville, W. S. Varner of Greeleyville. Secretary and Treasurer—H. E. Bonner of Due West.

Resolutions were adopted asking an increase of compensation.

The following delegates were elected to represent South Carolina at the National Convention of Postmasters to be held in June at Chicago: F. A. Schiffley of Orangeburg; H. E. Bonner of Due West; C. W. Webb of Spartanburg; H. J. Gregory of Lancaster; W. S. Varner of Greeleyville. H. E. Bonner was nominated to represent South Carolina on the National Executive Committee.

A resolution was adopted calling upon third class postmasters at court houses to organize county conventions.

After reading a letter from the Postmaster General acknowledging the receipt of an invitation to atted the meeting, the convention, at 10.30 P. M., adjourned.—*Columbia Record, Nov. 10th.*

TIME FOR STAR SHOWERS.

Wonderful Spectacle Soon to Be Presented by the Heavens.

In a few days, says the San Francisco Call, the world will once more enter that curious belt of meteorities which is known as the fall star shower. Every boy and girl is familiar with the wonderful spectacle which the skies present twice a year, when the heavens appear to be filled with falling stars, and bright lines of light cross each other in endless succession, until it seems, in the poetic imagery of the Bible, that the stars of heaven are raining down upon the world "as a fig tree casteth her unripe figs when she is shaken by the wind." Many a grown up person has sat up through the night watching the impressive spectacle, and it is likely enough that professors will again be persecuted this year by inquiring crowds who will want to watch the rain of star dust from the vantage ground of observatories.

According to the ordinary reckoning 5,000 meteors fall on the earth every year, the great bulk of them, of course, falling into the sea. This is mere guesswork. The data are entirely wanting on which to base an estimate. The size of the meteoric stones which are preserved in museums varies from a ton in weight to the size of a child's marble. The ancients loved to fancy that they were thunderbolts which Jove hurled at erring gods or mortals; thus the career of the unlucky Phaeton was said to have been terminated by one of these projectiles. But, in fact, there is no record of any nature of any edifice having been struck by a meteoric stone. In the older works on astronomy mention is made of a shower of meteoric stones which fell near Ruquefort in France. Some of the fragments are said to have been from twenty-eight to thirty pounds in weight; one of them is stated to have fallen on a cabin and killed a shepherd and a bull.

The stones which do generally fall come from fireballs or bolides, which are seen to explode with a great noise and smoke. The explosion is sometimes heard a hundred miles away and the concussion of the air shakes the whole region like an earthquake. The great fireball which exploded in Normandy in 1803, and of which Humboldt gives an account of in his "Cosmos," was surrounded by a small black cloud. All at once a loud explosion was heard, and this was followed by several others "resembling discharges of musketry mingled with the rolling of a great number of drums." More than 2,000 meteoric stones are said to have fallen from this