"Galveston Rice Bird" in Louisiana Planter.

The weather during the past week has been very changeable and some very heavy rain has fallen. Heavy rain and wind was very severe in some parts of the parish and considerable damage was done.

There seems to be a little disposition among the farmers to start their rice ploughing, but the ambition is rather weak as yet. The rice industry has received such a shock through the secret rice combine that farmers say that they will not plant very largely the coming season, but will devote their time to the raising of feed for their work stock and to sell. One great difficulty with our farmers is that they buy too much feed and it takes the profits all off. The way that rice has been selling this season very few farmers will pay expenses, and many of them will have to borrow money in order to pay the laboring men.

It must not be supposed that we have no other shipping point than that at New Orleans, for our rice is going to North Carolina and South Carolina as well as to New York City. Our home mills are doing a large business, but some of our mills obtain rice from other parishes when they can get abundance of good rice at home. We have ten or more rice mills in our parish, counting all the small ones, and the capacity of the mills will run from fifty barrels for the smallest up to one thousand barrels for the largest mill, and their combined capacity will run up to three thousand barrels or more per day. This is helping us out very much, and a few more good mills would work up all our rice, and then we would be independent of all other markets in the country and this would place us upon a solid footing and give us better prices for our rice.

I am told by a party who has handled a good deal of rice this season that there is a good quantity of light rice throughout the county and that the cause of it is attributed to more than one thing; but the principal cause was the extreme hot weather; considerable rice was injured where there was abundance of water on it, so that it was not scarcity of water, as some people seem to think, as lots of our rice matured without any water on it worth mentioning. Warm, showery weather makes our best rice.

I have interviewed a good many farmers on the subject of the rice market and they tell me that they are feeding their rice to hogs and realizing a good price for rice in that way, but the trouble now seems to be that farmers are not supplied with the hogs to work the rice in that way. The hog is a good rice mill for every farmer to have, but it takes a good lot of these kind of rice mills to make a mill with sufficient capacity to pay the farmer well, and the conclusion which many farmers have arrived at is to go in to hog raising, for they can be shipped to any market in the North and East.

The prevailing opinions among the farmers seems to be that the acreage planted to rice in 1896 will be greatly reduced, and that much more of the Japan variety will be planted than in any previous year. This is owing to the Japan rice yielding so well and maturing with so little water, and it was sold for as much and even more than the other varieties of rice sold at the Lake Charles rice mill. We believe that our industry will not be so badly crippled next season as this and last season, for we are opening up new markets for both rough and clean, and this, with the new mills now building and those to be built in the near future, will greatly facilitate the handling of the crop of another season. We are well supplied with labor and teams now, and are well prepared to grow rice, and the balance of the advantages are in our favor, or will be just as soon as we establish a good market in the North for us to patronize. But the thing will not be complete until we can obtain a higher tariff on imported rice. Protection is the life of trade out here, and we think it would be hard to find a place where this rule would not work.

With regard to spanking over the front gate, a great deal can be said on both sides.—Texas Siftings.

Discouraged Artist.—"I don't think I paint as well as I did ten years ago." Critical Friend.—"Well, you see the fact your dealer [illegible] cheaper."

Democratic Platform.

"Resolved, That we reaffirm our allegiance to the time-honored principles of the Democratic party, believeing that they constitute the best rule of action for an enlightened people under a democratic-republican form of government.

"Resolved, That we point with pride to the record made by the Democratic party through the present administration, marked by honest, faithful and business-like management of every State interest, evidenced by the improved condition of its finances—its bonds above par; its debt being gradually retired; its public institutions enlarged and improved and run upon a cash basis; its constantly growing and improved public school system; a complete levee system; its expenses kept below its revenues, and its obligations promptly paid in cash and universal confidence established and maintained; that the management of the affairs of our parishes under Democratic rule furnishes equal source of congratulation, as shown by the settlement of a large judgment and floating debt; the absence of any outstanding claims; the prompt payment of current expenses, as well as their material reduction; the improvement of the public roads, its public buildings and bridges, and annual increasing appropriations for public schools, all within and below the regular rates of parochial taxation; that the maintenance and perpetuation of this condition of State and local administration is the principal issue in the coming election.

"Resolved, That the State Central Committee be and is hereby directed in calling the next State convention to fix the representatives of the various parishes of the State and the wards of the parish of Orleans therein upon the basis of the total population, as shown by the United States census of 1890.

"Resolved, That the convention heartily indorses the action of the last Legislature on the question of suffrage, which proposes to give the people of this State an elective system that will secure to them freedom and fairness in the expression of the will of all the people at the polls, a thorough reform of the ballot, and will insure the control of affairs to the intelligence and virtue of the State, for which the party has always stood before the people.

"Resolved, That this convention heartily indorses the liberal policy of the Federal government in respect to the Mississippi river and approves of the appropriations made for the double purpose of improving the navigation of the river and the protection of the alluvial valley from floods.

"Resolved further, That the work of the Mississippi River Commission in carrying out the purposes of Congress is cordially approved and commended, and we urge upon Congress to make such further appropriations for the continued improvement and control of the river as the great interests involved justify and demand.

"Whereas, there is an honest difference of opinion among Democrats upon the question of the free coinage of silver, bimetallism monometallism; and

"Whereas, this convention deals only with State politics; and

"Whereas, the money question belongs to the domain of national politics only. Therefore be it

"Resolved, That this convention refer this question to the Democracy of the State when they select delegates to the national convention and in nominating the candidates to the Legislature, State Senate and members of Congress.

"Resolved, That we indorse and reaffirm the Monroe doctrine as announced in the recent message of the President of the United States addressed to Congress on the Venezuela question, and that we pledge the support of this State to all proper measures that may be taken for its enforcement."

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