

## ST. TAMMANY FARMER.

Official Journal of St. Tammany Parish.

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY.

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W. G. KENTZEL ..... EDITOR.

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COVINGTON, LA. :

Saturday, December 14, 1878.

Great Britain last year imported oranges to the extent of 3,533,781 bushels, valued at \$7,733,825.

Galveston wants to quarantine wild geese flying from this direction. *Picayune.*

They can't do it. The geese all carry clean bills from their quacks.

What is the difference between a large fish abounding in the Canadian fisheries, and the whale that swallowed Jonah? One is a big cod-fish, and the other is a big fish cod.

The State Grange of Louisiana met at the City Hotel, New Orleans, last Tuesday. There being no quorum present, no session was held. The Executive Committee instructed the President to call a meeting of the Grange in New Orleans on the second Tuesday in February next.

The *St. Louis Times-Journal* says: Thirty-four steamers at the New Orleans wharves all at one time, waiting for grain from St. Louis, testify silently but effectively to the fact that the great barricade to the commerce of the valley of the Mississippi lies between us and New Orleans, and that it is no longer to be found at the river's mouth.

The steamer *New Camelia* met with an accident on the Lake last Monday. A severe storm was prevailing at the time, and a large wave struck the vessel. The vast amount of water taken by the wheel was rushed through with such force as to crush in the double petition between the wheel-house and the office, which was flooded. The clerk, Mr. Nixon, who was sitting at his desk, had a narrow escape, and crawled out of the office through the small window which is used to pass tickets to passengers. The boat's papers were lost, together with \$300 in cash. Mr. Nixon lost \$500 of his own money, which was in a tin box under the desk. The boat returned to Madisonville, where a new petition was put in, after which she proceeded on her way to the city.

## PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES.

The intelligence and enterprise of a community may be measured, to a certain extent, not only by the habits of the people, nor the taste and care displayed in adding to the beauty and comfort of their residences, but by the condition of their public highways. There are various reasons for the urgent necessity for good roads throughout our parish. At this season of the year, when most, if not all of the heavy hauling is done, we must expect to have a great deal of inclement weather, rendering our roads, in many places, boggy and impassable. This not only interferes with the arrangements of those of our farmers desirous of placing their cotton, molasses, etc., in the market at the earliest possible moment, but largely affects our entire business system. After a heavy rain, for instance, there is a marked decline in the number of wagons arriving from the country; this is necessarily followed by "dull days" in business, which, in its turn, causes a corresponding curtailment of the outgoing cargoes of vessels plying between this city and New Orleans. Thus it will be seen that this is a subject in which we are all interested. Our public roads, at best, are nothing more than beaten tracks "through the woods and over the plains," and the present system of working them seems to be deficient. There appears to be some difficulty in getting persons to work on them, as will be seen in the proceedings of the Police Jury. We are of the opinion that a law compelling the payment of the road tax in money, and placing the working of the roads in the hands of some competent road builder, would be more beneficial in its results. The material for good roads abounds in our parish, and they could doubtless be built at a nominal expense. Perhaps there is no State with better public roads than Illinois. They are built by simply grading and thoroughly ditching a heavy clay soil, and placing in the grade near each side six-inch drain tile, with occasional outlets into the side ditches. They have in that State what is termed a free turnpike law. Twelve men, who are voters, residents and tax-payers, may call for an election to be held by the County Commissioners—a body whose duties are similar to those of our Police Jury. If a majority of one, of those living within two miles of any county road, vote that it shall be turnpiked, the County Commissioners proceed at once under the law. The price of land has gone up from \$3 to \$10 per acre where the roads have been so improved. The railroads of Illinois were idle one-half the time on account of the bad public roads, making it impossible for them to obtain freight, and so they co-operated with the citizens in improving the same. Although we have no railroads, the hint might be taken by vessels relying on our parish for their cargoes. Another reason in support of our argument is that Covington is fast gaining favor with the citizens of New Orleans as a pleasant and

healthy summer resort, and we have no doubt that first-class roads throughout the parish, adding the elements of ease and comfort to the delightful scenery of the "piney woods," would tend to increase the many inducements calculated to bring about this desirable and profitable result.

## A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

The result of the late election shows that the people are almost unanimous in favor of a new Constitution. It will therefore be one of the first duties of the next Legislature to take action in the matter. The preliminaries should be arranged and a time and place for the meeting of the Convention fixed at as early a date as possible, in order to insure us a hasty deliverance from the provisions of the obnoxious inheritance of carpet-bagism under which we are living at present, and which must necessarily remain in force until a Constitution, framed by the people of Louisiana, based upon justice, equal rights, and an honest and economical administration of the laws, can be prepared and adopted. Many of our exchanges are urgent upon this subject.

The *Morehouse Clarion* says: "We are glad, indeed, to see so many of our contemporaries favoring a short session of the next Legislature and the calling of a Constitutional Convention immediately. Would to God that the General Assembly, to meet in January next, will heed this wholesome doctrine. The cries and demands of the people would then be hushed by the opening up of a happy future for our State, which can only be brought about by a Convention."

The *Claiborne Guardian* says: "The verdict has been pronounced and recorded, and the law-makers must shape their actions in accordance with its terms. The people of Claiborne, for greater certainty, have declared in mass meeting that their representatives should urge at once this measure. But even if such instructions had not been given the gentlemen we have elected, the majority against the amendments in the whole State stands in place of such positive instructions, and they can not possibly err in the adoption of their line of policy. In the general discussion of the question last winter and spring, we were numbered among those journals which opposed a Convention. Our reasons were those which seemed to us good, after mature deliberation upon all the points involved. The chief reason with us was that we did not believe the time suggested was an opportune one. The result of the election in November does away with this objection, and now we are earnestly in favor of immediate action."

The *Thibodeaux Sentinel* says: "There are three things for the next Legislature to do:

1. "Elect a Senator to succeed James B. Eustis, whose term of office expires March 3, 1879.
2. "Pass an appropriation bill to

enable the State officers to carry on the government.

3. "Call a Constitutional Convention, provide for its financial expenses, and then adjourn.

"This can be done in fifteen days."

## AMERICAN WOMEN AND RURAL INDUSTRIES.

A correspondent of the Agricultural Department, referring to the part taken by women in rural labor in this country, says: As sensible beings, we must take facts as we find them. It is idle to indulge in sentiment and deplore the necessity of rural work for women. The fact exists that millions of the human race, even in this country, must, by the sweat of the brow, aid the transmutation of the soil into bread before it can be eaten, and of that class there are nearly as many women as men. It is true that the heavy work of the farm, the teaming, the "breaking up," and the drudgery, fitted only to sturdy strength, is done by men in this country, as it should be, and as it is not to such an extent in any other; it is true that in the new States, and in the Territories, where the face of woman is a vision of the past, a casual fitting of the present, and the special hope of the future, women are held quite too sacred even for the lighter rural drudgeries, not alone by the refined and cultivated, but by the chivalrous roughs of the border. It is equally true that no meagre share of food production and preparation for the supply of our countrymen, and the surplus for European consumption, is allotted to the (physically) weaker sex.

Of the 600,000,000 pounds of butter, worth \$180,000,000, how much comes from the labor of women, in milking and churning, and all the cares of dairy management? Of 250,000,000 pounds of cheese, worth \$36,000,000, how much is manufactured by the wives and daughters of farmers? The eggs and poultry, amounting to many millions more, are due to an industry in which the farmer's wife has by far the larger share of skill and labor. The sweets of the hive are largely collected under the directing care of women. Millions of dollars, many more than those appearing in the census of market-garden products, are produced in kitchen gardens by feminine labor. No inconsiderable amount of small fruits, both for home use and for the village and city markets, is grown and picked by feminine hands; and the quantity and value of wild berries—strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc.—would aggregate far more than the fortune of one millionaire. Then if the casual or regular labor of women, in assistance volunteered or required in planting, weeding, cultivating, haying, harvesting, and even the care of live stock, be computed at its true value, and its real percentage of our total farm production calculated, how would the figures swell the sum, and magnify the proportion of wealth wrought from the mine of the farm by the hand of woman!

## TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

### Domestic.

Congress will adjourn for the holidays, December 21 until January 6.

Conkling will continue his opposition to the President's New York appointments.

Search is being made for the remains of A. T. Stewart on the Rappahannock river.

A severe storm in New York caused a large amount of damage to shipping and property.

The Democratic candidate for Mayor of Boston was elected, and nine out of twelve aldermen.

A duel with clubs was fought in Brooklyn. Both parties got a terrible beating and were arrested.

The Potter Committee will resume its investigations in New Orleans, in regard to the last Presidential election.

The City Council of Chicago are considering the practicability of lighting the city with oil, owing to the high price of gas.

A commercial excursion to Mexico, by the Manufacturers' Association of the Northwest, will start from Chicago on the 4th of January next.

The Treasury Department has been informed that cattle shipped from the United States to Great Britain must have a clean bill of health, or they will be slaughtered on arrival.

The investigation instituted by the Bar Association of New York discloses the fact that the County Clerk, Sheriff and Register have all been guilty of abuses in office. In some instances as much as 150 per cent. in excess of legal fees have been extorted.

### Foreign.

Russia is negotiating for permission to construct railroads in Persia.

Foreign officers in Berlin complain of a systematic suspicion of Russia.

The Russian Government has decided to levy an import duty on raw cotton, payable in gold.

Representatives of the Mexican government have signed a convention with bondholders in London.

In the Chamber of Deputies, Italy, twelve motions are pending against the Ministry and eight in favor.

Disraeli and the Government were sustained in their Afghan policy, in Parliament, by a vote of 201 to 65.

The Russians are concentrating a large and well armed fleet in the China and Japan seas. Object unknown.

The difficulty between Turkey and the United States, respecting the arrest of Andrew Romer, for conspiracy against the life of the Sultan, has been settled.

Berlin has been declared in a state of siege against Socialists. The society is said to be a political one, bent on a general upheaving of existing affairs, through the instrumentality of darkness and the dagger, not only in Germany, but in England and France, and throughout Europe.