

The St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

W. G. KENTZEL, Editor.

COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1902

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STORE PHONE, 61-2 WAREHOUSE PHONE, *40.

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ON THE FARM.

In the sober days of farming, thirty, forty years ago, We had more of solid progress, less of tinsel and of show. Our old mothers taught their daughters how to sew, scrub, churn and bake. How to take a turn at haying, on the load or at the rake. Milk and drive the cows to pasture, catch and harness up old Bill. Crack the whip and take the produce to the market or the mill. Never smarter, wittier lassies traded at the country store, And they more than matched the saucy, smooth tongued peddlers at the door. Handsomer they were, and nobler, in their neat and simple dress, Than the modern lady strutting in a ruffled wilderness. They would rather go to meeting, sitting with a happy smile, In the old cart, cracked and broken, than go into debt for style. Not a dollar would they squander, not one extra ribbon get. Till the parlor had been furnished and the farm was out of debt. They'd have scorned the thought of sitting, dressed in frills and boughthen curls, While the house was run to ruin by a pack of hired girls; Or, to be accomplished ladies, make an organ squeak and moan, While the old folks, lats and early worked their fingers to the bone. Yet with all this sober farming nature has no richer charms Than she gave those happy maidens on the grand old Southern farms. But this age of great invention, deeper thought and clearer light, Has produced a patent lady, and Dame Fortune holds the right. Not content with sober farming, tired of loafing and unrest, All the boys are taking tickets for the prairies of the West. And they need but small persuasion to pull up their stakes and go, To where nature yields a harvest if she's tickled with a hoe. But I've somehow got the notion that a lad with prospects fair, Falling in our Southern valleys is a failure anywhere. He may have the mildest climate, he may have the richest soil, But it just amounts to nothing, if he hasn't got the oil. It may be this age is giving birth to more enlightened views, But it will not do to farm it in a pair of patent shoes. And it simply stands to reason that a man can't till his ground, If one half the time he's loafing and the other riding round. —Ben Crawford, in Farm and Ranch.

How Indians Make Sugar.

If the people in general would follow the example of the full-blood Indians of this section, the sugar trust would soon see its finish, writes an Infanta (I. T.) correspondent of the St. Louis Republic. It would go out of business for the lack of customers. While the full-bloods have a sweet tooth, yet they will not eat the sugar made by the white man. They consume the "home product." They make their sugar out of cane. In every community there is a canamill, and it a sight to behold. It is a primitive contrivance, and as simple a piece of machinery as could be constructed. The rollers are made of logs, the cogwheels are wooden, and the trough is usually made by hollowing out the butt of a sapling. In some of the mills no logs are used even. The lever is fastened to one of the rollers and that one forces the other one by pressure. At this kind of a mill a horse must walk around a circle 75 feet in circumference in order to turn the roller, three feet in diameter, around once. After the cane is run through the mill and the juice is crushed out and is caught in a vessel, the juice is boiled down in big iron kettles, which are also used in butchering. The Indians are not particular whether the kettles are clean, and the sugar and molasses that they manufacture are only palatable to themselves. Their objection to white man's sugar is that they don't know what it is made of. They are afraid it is injurious to health. None of their mills belong to the trust.

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Farmers who still cling to the idea that cotton is the only money crop they can raise, and haven't yet learned the profitable secret of diversification should read the following experience of a Texas farmer, taken from a reliable exchange:

Last year F. A. Brown, of Detroit, Lamar county, Texas, planted "an acre of worn-out, sandy land," in corn, from which he gathered five bushels. This year he started to throw it out of cultivation as being too poor to even sprout a crop of weeds. He finally decided to plant it in peanuts, and gathered 60 1/2 bushels, which he sold in Paris for \$45.40. In addition to this he sold the vines for \$15 for hay, making \$60.40 realized from an acre of poor, sandy land that was considered unproductive. Peanuts sell readily in Paris for 75 cents a bushel and the yield is from 50 to 125 bushels per acre. The crop was light this year, it is explained, "on account of drought, but still the yield was 60 bushels."

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