

The St. Tammany Farmer.

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

J. H. MASON, JR., Editor.

COVINGTON, ST TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1910.

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 10

A PARISH CORN CLUB.

Interesting Meeting Addressed by Prof. L. V. Roy, of the State University of Agriculture. The Various Schools Well Represented.

Court being in session at the Court-house last Tuesday, the Corn Club meeting, for the morning session, was held in the Methodist church, which was crowded with interested and eager school children, as well as many of the progressive farmers of the parish. More interest was exhibited at this meeting than has been usual on such occasions in this parish, and it is quite evident that interest in agricultural pursuits are commanding much greater attention than formerly. Not only was the meeting attended by pupils of the Covington public school and their principal, Prof. Lyon, but the boys of the Abita school, in charge of their principal, Prof. Huffaker, and school children from the various other wards were in attendance.

The pupils of Abita School organized a corn club last year, due to the interest taken in the matter by Capt. G. E. Miller, and one of the prizes was carried off by a member of that club. It is expected that the competition will be still stronger this year, and if St. Tammany parish does not make a good showing it will not be due to lack of effort.

In opening the meeting, at about 10:30 a. m., Supt. A. B. Peters told the young men present that he did not know to whom he was speaking. Perhaps to future lawyers, or statesmen, or perhaps even to presidents. All of these had come from the ranks of the rural districts. Some of the greatest brains had developed from the invigorating and wholesome influences of country surroundings. But whatever calling might be chosen, he impressed upon them the importance of thoroughness and understanding. There was need of agricultural knowledge and agricultural industries. Those who chose this calling were entering a field that demanded respect, that required education and labor equivalent to any other calling, and that would give to the farmer of the future a standing equal to any other calling, and in competency commensurate with his needs. He was glad to see so many present and so much interest taken. He closed his remarks with a little story illustrating his position in addressing the audience. He said that he was deeply interested in the corn club movement and in the improvement of the condition of the agricultural people, but that he was in the position of the young man who was unused to railroad travel and became dumfounded as the time approached for the train to leave and he was still unprovided with a ticket. Finally he shouted, "Send me by freight." "Why do you wish to be sent by freight," asked the conductor. "Because I can't express myself," he replied. That Mr. Peters said, was his position. He could not express his feelings, his interest in the occasion nor his great interest in agricultural work. He then introduced Prof. L. V. Roy, of the State Agricultural College.

Prof. Roy is a very earnest and pleasant speaker, and shows that his interest in agriculture comes from an innate love of its pursuits and the opportunity it gives for investigation and the acquisition of new knowledge. He spoke deliberately, clearly and with evident consciousness of the power of knowledge. All that he said was both instructive and interesting.

After a few introductory remarks he took up the subject of the meeting. Few people, he said, in speaking of corn, associated with it the numerous uses to which it was put. How many know that rubber overboots were made of corn; that olive oil was made of corn; that much of the syrup, outside of Louisiana, was made of corn? That outside of that delectable article called "corn juice," of which so many were very fond, a tabulated investigation of the various uses was given. Some of the uses discovered two hundred different uses to which it was put.

A spirit of education in agriculture which showed the great interest that was being taken generally in the subject was the establishment of agricultural schools. There were seven schools teaching agriculture in the State, and elementary agriculture was being taught in the 7th grade in the public schools. The different experimental stations were constantly publishing literature and the United States Department of Agriculture was issuing bulletins, pamphlets and other documents that could not be read by one individual in 365 days if twelve hours each day were devoted to the reading. That the farmer of today, to be successful, must become a specialist in his particular depart-

ment, just as other callings and trades in the business world were being specialized in their different departments. That the able work of Prof. E. A. Knapp, of the Farm Demonstration Work, had been instrumental in increasing the average production of land throughout the country. That in this State, while the average yield of corn for 1908 was 19.8 bushels, the estimated yield for 1909 is 23 bushels, instances of yields of 50 bushels to the acre were no longer remarkable, and one man made an average yield of 60 bushels on a 40-acre tract. That an increase of 6 bushels to the acre would give an increase of \$7,000,000 or enough to build good roads throughout the State.

Prof. Roy cited an instance in which a graduate of Tulane College, after a successful business career, had entered the agricultural course of the State University at Baton Rouge preparatory to entering agricultural pursuits. One farmer who attended a course at the College of Agriculture of the State University at Baton Rouge said that the knowledge he gained of the diseases of Irish potatoes was alone worth more to him than the entire cost of the term. The free short course offered by this college from January 10 to 22, 1910, opened with 6 attendants. Ten thousand circulars were sent out and other advertising methods adopted, and the term closed with sixty students, representing twenty-four parishes. The railroad gave round trip rates to students of one and one-third fare, and it is understood that next year they will give free transportation. To show how much farmers who attended this college appreciated the benefits, Prof. Roy read the following:

At a meeting of the farmers and others interested in agriculture who are attending the Farmers' Short Course offered by the College of Agriculture of the Louisiana State University, held at the Istrouma Hotel, January 18, 1910, at which all farmer students were present, the following resolutions were adopted, to wit:

Resolved, that we hereby express our appreciation of the instruction given by the faculty of the college; that we firmly believe that the best and most practical results will come from out attending the lectures, taking part in the practice work, and witnessing the demonstrations which formed part of the Short Course.

Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the faculty of the College for their many courtesies extended us during the course, for their readiness at all times to help us in every way, and for their kindly efforts to make our attendance at the College both profitable and pleasant.

Resolved, that the thanks of this meeting be extended to the railroad of Louisiana for the encouragement given the Short Course movement by offering reduced rates to those attending.

Resolved further, that we hereby commend the Short Course to the farmers of Louisiana, their wives, sons and daughters; that we know the course to be inexpensive and instructive; that we believe it will pay in dollars and cents any farmer to attend the Short Course; and that we feel the course to be so valuable that no progressive farmer or others interested in agriculture in Louisiana can afford to be absent from it in future years.

That it was becoming more and more recognized that good seed was a big factor in the successful production of corn. In illustration he repeated a conversation with an illiterate but good farmer, who likened the value of good seed, as compared with unselected seed, to the better value of a Jersey cow as compared with common stock.

He said that people who raise twenty bushels of corn to the acre should be willing to adopt the methods of those who raise sixty to eighty bushels. That the way to get more corn was to have a deeper seed bed, eight to ten inches deep, more plant food, more manure. That the most important word in the English language to the farmer was that word "humus."

Humus is meant half rotted or decayed vegetable or animal matter. It could be obtained by the use of stable manure and the turning under of vegetable matter, preferably legumes like the cow pea. Supply the ground with humus, furnish a good, deep seed bed, well fertilized and planted with selected seed, give proper cultural care, and a good crop was an assured thing, with the precipitation of moisture in this section.

He advised, using on corn land 300 pounds of cotton seed meal with 7 per cent of nitrogen, and 150 pounds of 15 per cent acid phosphate. He did not advise the boys of the Corn Club to use such commercial fertilizers, but rather to depend upon stable manure.

Lands in the Yazoo Valley that had produced but fourteen bushels to the acre, after being deepened to ten inches, in three years yielded eighty bushels.

The effect of adopting scientific methods could be noted in Wisconsin, with its large and high-lifted barns, for the storing of feed and the housing of stock. Every farmer had one or more of these large barns—as large ordinarily as this church building and used for the stock in winter. A food much used for silage is the green corn stalk, cut down as it stands in the field, and chopped up and blown into the silo by machinery through a feeding pipe, and then well tramped and packed in the silo. The silo and barnyard manure are what have made Wisconsin.

He said that in the course of a few years this would become as great a trucking district as Tampa Bay, in which the merchants would pitch in and interest the farmer in this business.

Supt. J. H. Davidson, of Claiborne parish, raised 105 for premiums. An easy way to calculate the acre yield was to multiply the product of the thirty feet square by 48.4.

The way to average the yield of an acre of corn, he said, was to measure off thirty feet square in an acre, shell and weigh the corn and then average the acre by that. The first prize which was won by the Avoynes parish in the last contest, averaged 57 bushels to the acre. C. A. Gandy had raised 132 1-2 bushels to the acre, and years ago, a Mr. Harmel had raised 154 bushels to the acre in Louisiana. He said that seed brought from abroad must not be expected to withstand the attacks of the weevil the first year, for it would not do so. This statement was made in response to remarks by someone in the audience.

He stated an instance where corn raised by boys had brought \$1.50 per bushel for seed, where that raised by their father was not worth 50 cents a bushel for the same purpose.

In Claiborne parish 74.22 and 74.8 bushels per acre had been raised, and an average yield of 53 bushels had been made. He said that his heart was in the farm. That some preferred to struggle along with an incompetency in the city rather than to take up the labor of the farm. He wanted the youth of the land to recognize the dignity of labor and to develop an inclination to work in preference to idleness. That the honor of labor well performed carried with it a distinction well worth striving for.

address, age, school, father's name and acreage plainly written.

The meeting adjourned, it being 12 o'clock noon, until 1 p. m., when court session being closed the meeting was resumed in the court house. Prof. Roy told of seeing a cornfield full of dirt at the Coliseum in Chicago, (which covers two squares of ground), that had been gathered near New Orleans, by Prof. Wisner, which was nearly all humus. They said up there such dirt would be valuable as a fertilizer. He said that humus was necessary for plant growth. It furnished a suitable place for the development of bacteria necessary to plant life. It maintained moisture which it would hold for months where soil without it would be dried in a week; it made the ground warm, and early, and it furnished food to the plants; it made the soil dark. To prove that a black soil was warmer than a light colored soil, a piece of black cloth laid across the snow showed much more rapid melting of the snow than where a light colored cloth had laid. That in very warm climates light colored clothing was much more worn and much cooler than dark.

He advised early planting of corn to avoid root worm and other corn enemies. Grow corn peas in the corn. Grow barley and rye in the winter, feeding as soiling crop and save the manure from the cattle. Every extra kernel of corn on the cob, counting 350 kernels to the ear, meant \$100.00 increased wealth in the total corn yield of the State. He advised rows four or four and a half feet apart, and if land is not rich three feet apart in the drill, one stalk to the hill. Plant about the 25th of February two and a half inches deep, in ground that has been ploughed in the fall about October. Give first plowing when about six inches high then keep the plow out of it. Plow about three inches deep and as near to the corn as you can without hurting it. Run over it with a harrow just before it comes up, nightly. Cultivate afterwards every eight or ten days. This not only keeps down weeds and grass but secures moisture by covering up the pores of the soil where evaporation has started. Continue cultivation as long as you can get into the corn without injuring it, but not deeper than 2 inches. A one pound ear of corn will use 300 pounds of water in its development. Fifteen inches of water are required to produce a crop of corn. We have an annual rainfall of about 62 inches, but not so evenly distributed as to be always plentiful when needed in the soil and proper cultivation.

Ground should be plowed from eight to ten inches deep, in order to stir water and give room for root growth and nutrient and air. Disk plow is best, because it does not turn up so much subsoil. If turning plow is used turn sod on edge in preference to clean over, and turn up only about one inch of subsoil each plowing until proper depth is reached. Never plow same depth each year because continued sliding of plow in same place makes a hardpan that will not let the water through.

To illustrate the value of humus in retaining moisture, Prof. Roy said, "Take a pound of humus in a sieve and a pound of sand in a sieve. Sprinkle each with water, and it will be found that the humus retains seven and one-half times as much moisture as the sand." He said to shuck corn in the field. It would detach a large number of weevils that would otherwise be carried to the corn crib.

In choosing corn for contest, place it on the table, measure its length and circumference. Should be from 9 to 10 inches long and 7-1/2 inches in circumference, if of the Lehman variety. Rows should be straight, grains wedge shaped and set close together without space between the rows and well filled at both ends. Each ear should be examined carefully, and every point taken into consideration. Each ear should be carefully wrapped in paper, bear a card with the name of the contestant, and be packed in a box with excelsior. The one ear exhibit should be marked and the ten ear exhibit marked separately. There will also be a yield contest and a composition contest, with premiums. The premium for best ear will probably be \$5.00 or \$10; also there will be a profit premium.

Prof. Roy told several humorous anecdotes in closing his remarks, and thanked the boys for their earnest attention to a discourse that had extended about four hours. The meeting was a very successful one. One of the best we have had in the parish. Following is the membership of the corn clubs:

Graydon Cook, 1-4 acre; Walter Allen, 1-4 acre; Victor Lamouin, 1-4 acre; Nicola Marango, 1 acre; Thos. F. Miller, 1-4 acre; Walter Thompson, 1-2 acre; Julius Heath, 1-4 acre; Hiram Heath, 1-4 acre; John Cross, 1-2 acre; Abita Springs, P. O. La. Herman Williams, 1 acre; Howard Huddleston, 1-4 acre; Fred Williams, 1 acre; Frank Paunieroy, 1-2 acre; Eddie Bush, 1 acre; W. F. Kahl, 1 acre; Vaughn Cowart, 1-2 acre; John O. Bush, 1 acre; Bush P. O. La. Herbert Martin, 1-2 acre; Percy Smith, 1-2 acre; John Glass, 2 acres; John Morey, 1-2 acre; Stanford Rayne, 1 acre; Dallas Sharp, 1 acre; Herman Sharp, 1 acre; W. H. Ellerman, Jr.,

1-2 acre; Nelson Fitzgerald, 1-2 acre; L. B. Anderson, 1-2 acre; M. Simons, 1-4 acre; Harry Heintz, 1 acre; Professor Heintz, 1-2 acre; Sidney Burns, 1-2 acre; Robert Barnes, 1-2 acre; Walter Jesse, 1-4 acre; Covington, P. O. La. Ed. Galloway, 1-2 acre; Frank Williams, 1 acre; Ellis Sharpley, 1 acre; Leonard Loyd, 1-2 acre; Barry King, 1 acre; John King, 1 acre; Ed. Galloway, 1-2 acre; P. O. La. Emile GHA, 1-2 acre; Peter Gitz, 1-2 acre; Rich Fuhrman, 1-2 acre; C. A. Koopp, 1-2 acre; J. J. Koopp, 1-2 acre; Robert Koopp, 1-2 acre; Madison Miller, P. O. La. C. Fisher, 1-4 acre; Maudie Miller, P. O. La. Lotta Galloway, 1-2 acre; Redick Beck, 1-2 acre; Wm. R. Keller, 1 acre; Perry Keller, 1 acre; Charlie Keller, 1 acre; Haste Ezzell, 1-2 acre; Ira Galloway, 1-2 acre; Martin Galloway, 1-2 acre; Tammany, E. G. La. W. H. Co. 1-2 acre; Percy Talley, 1-2 acre; Carl A. Sharp, 1-2 acre; Thos. Dutsch, 1 acre; Weler Dutsch, 1-2 acre; Nelson Sharp, 1-2 acre; Masley Watts, 1-2 acre; Waldheim, P. O. La.

Dissolution Notice.

Notice is hereby given that Albert Theobald, has withdrawn from the firm of Theobald Brothers, blacksmiths, headed by and wheelwrights. The business will be carried on by Charles Theobald and Edward Theobald, under the name of Theobald Brothers, and all claims against the former partnership will be settled by them. All accounts due said former partnership up to January 1, 1910, may be paid to Albert Theobald, of the ward Theobald, each of whom is authorized to receive therefor.

Covington, La. January 3, 1910.

Notice to Stockholders.

The annual meeting of the Southern Hotel Oyster Saloon, owned by E. M. Shelling, Manager, will be held at the Southern Hotel in Covington, La., at 10 o'clock a. m., on Thursday, February 3, 1910, for the following purposes:

First, to hear reports from the Directors and Treasurer.

Second, to elect a Board of Directors for the ensuing year.

Third, to transact such business as may legally come before said meeting.

Each stockholder who is present at said meeting, either in person or by written proxy, will be entitled to one vote for each share of stock standing registered in his name at the time of the meeting.

The stock register and transfer books will be closed at the close of business hours February 2, 1910, and will be opened on the day following said meeting; each stockholder is requested to fill out the enclosed blank and forward to Mr. T. A. Vaughan, President, Director at Covington, before the date of the meeting.

GEORGE E. SANFORD, President.

JOHN J. SANFORD, Secretary.

Notice to Stockholders.

It is a dangerous thing to take a cough medicine containing opiates that merely stifle your cold instead of curing it. Foley's Honey and Tar loosens and cures the cough and expels the poisonous germs, thus preventing pneumonia and consumption. Refuse substitutes and take only the Foley's Honey and Tar in the yellow package. Sold by Theo. Strain.

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Pair of mules or work horses.

H. L. GARLAND

Democratic Parish Executive Committee.

All members of the Democratic Parish Executive Committee are hereby notified to meet at the courthouse, in the town of Covington, La., on Thursday, February 3, 1910, at 11 a. m., for the purpose of calling an election to elect a Representative for the Parish of St. Tammany, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. L. L. Morgan.

J. J. CUSACHS, Chairman.

W. E. FUSSELL, Secretary.

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