The St. Tammany Farmer

D. H MASON - - - - - - Editor and Proprietor

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WHY OPPOSITION TO EDUCATION IN VALUE OF DRAINAGE.

(By D. H. Mason)

The greatest principle in democracy is that the voice of every citizen is freely heard, if he but raises it. But it is heard through delegates. Otherwise there would be a deafening babble, riot and extinction. Theoretically and philosophically a delegate is chosen because of his qualifications. All business is conducted on the same principle. The management is placed in the hands of those who are qualified to make a success of it. If you are a stockholder you have a voice in the selection. You have a voice in your local government. You use it in choosing executives. The larger part of the public is not fit to execute laws. The larger part of the public is not fit to manage business nor to make laws This is inoffensively stated as a fact. A lawyer might have excellent qualifications in his profession, but you would hardly engage him to survey lands. A farmer might raise fine crops and give good management to his farm, yet be a very poor hand at laying out drainage districts, and while you would go to your physician in sickness and pay him five dollars for a few minutes of his time, or if he was a celebrated specialist, perhaps a thousand dollars, yet you wouldn't give him a dollar a day to dig post holes. This shows that every man fits into his own niche but is dependent upon some one else when it comes to things for which he is not qualified. Mr. Arnett is qualified for the work he has undertaken for the development of St. Tammany.

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Now, as a citizen you had a voice in making the law that allows you to establish drainage districts. As a citizen you have the privilege of announcing whether you favor putting that law into effect in your district or not. As a citizen it is your duty to exercise your sovereign right to a voice in the government by qualifying yourself to vote intelligently, and you not only owe this to the people of your parish, but you owe it to your family and to yourself. The question of drainage is one of great importance to you as a farmer. The man who has other business by which he earns a living is not as directly interested as you are. He may have some proposition up his sleeve that pays him better than drainage. Timber men, as a rule, will not want drainage while they have timber growing or to be planted, because it will advance the value of their holdings, which are not for sale, and will therefore increase their taxes; and a prosperous farming community never offers the opportunity for cheap labor that a poor community does, because the farmer will not work off the farm when he can make more working on it. The timber man also has the idea that drainage will ultimately injure his growing trees, although we believe that authority can be obtained to show that it does not. And right here, where did the opposition to drainage start? Did it originate with the farmer, or did the farmer have dreams of oppressive taxation and enormous cost after the professional or business man had whispered into his ear?

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We do not profess to know all about drainage, but we have read enough to convince us that it has doubled, trebled and quadrupled the value of lands. Its benefits are so incontrovertible that even the opponents of drainage in this instance all admit they are in favor of drainage—AT SOME OTHER TIME. Not now, BECAUSE IT WOULD COST TOO MUCH TO GET THE STUMPS OUT AND AT THE SAME TIME PAY THE COST OF DRAINAGE. But they don't tell you that the REASON THE STUMPS ARE NOT OUT IS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T RAISE ENOUGH MONEY ON THE LAND NOW TO PAY FOR GETTING THEM OUT, AND THAT YOU CAN'T SELL A PART OF YOUR LAND NOW NOR GET ANY MONEY ON IT FROM THE FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION, BECAUSE IT IS UNCULTIVATED STUMP LAND AND NOT DRAINED. The only time those stumps will come out will be when the land is worth enough to make you take them out. The cost of taking stumps out is estimated at about $28.00 per acre. The cost of drainage will not be that, most assuredly. But if you had your lands drained the increased production would be more than that and certainly the value of your lands will increase greater than the tax, whatever the tax may be. Now, you are paying taxes on land that is not valuable enough to induce you to take the stumps out and cultivate it, although it is said the stumps can be sold for enough to pay for the clearing. If the stumps were out and land drained you would put machinery in and cultivate every acre of it. Now, you must use the hoe and the pony plow, mostly.

Go to districts where land is drained and see the big barns and fine stock and the fine houses and schools and churches and the independence of the farmer. But, Mr. Farmer, you are not asked to vote for drainage nor to accept any statement of its value without first having satisfied yourself that it is a good thing. All that you are asked to do is to avail yourself of the opportunity that will be given you to learn all about drainage, what its effect is, what the law is and what your obligations will be under it. In fact, we shall shortly publish the law, the Act itself, so that you may read it and know all its provisions. And remember that Mr. Arnett, who started this thing, has some six thousand acres of land that he expects to improve by drainage and sell afterwards at a profit, after paying all costs of drainage himself; that he is willing to buy more land and will probably buy yours at a reasonable price, if you feel that drainage is not a profitable thing to you. His plans will bring millions of dollars into this parish. In all the magazines and periodicals of the country you see thousands of dollars spent in advertisements calling attention to the "Sun Kissed Fruit" and the "Sun Maid Raisins" of California. You see pictures of the orchards and vineyards and fields in the movies. The people of California made this possible. Mr. Arnett tells us that right here in this section of the state we can do the same thing just as well, if not better than California did, and he proposes to prove it. He will bring factories here to put up our products and he will use his knowledge of promotion and financing to bring about the change—but it can not be done without drainage People who do big things in the world are known by the banks, because it takes money to do them and the banks handle money. Banks in every section in which Mr. Arnett has operated speak of him in highest praise both as to character and ability to carry out anything he undertakes. All the banks in St. Tammany are with him, because it means more money in the parish and consequently more money in the banks. The success of his movement means prosperity for the farmer and prosperity for the business man, and all should co-operate with him.

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We are publishing letters opposed to drainage—all arguing against drainage, yet believing that drainage is a good thing. The position is unfair, and does not look disinterested or informed, because the position taken would practically make the law inoperative in this section of the state and deprive us of the opportunities it offers. Mississippi to-day is carrying out an extensive plan of drainage. If the argument against it was logical, we would not have school buildings nor streets nor public parks nor sidewalks nor any improvements whatever. They are all costs that do not bring immediate returns. Even when you plant your crops you have to wait until they are gathered before you get returns. Your cattle and your swine and your chickens eat up money until they are ready for the market. The house and the barn you build on your land and the machinery you use all cost you money. You can not have free drainage. The business part of the transaction is ably discussed in the article by Mr. Briggs on the first page.

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The St. Tammany Farmer is for drainage because it believes it is a good thing and will yield big returns to the farmer. But it proposes to open its columns to discussion so that all may be said for or against it that is of importance, but the scarcity of paper makes this a difficult and costly thing and we ask that trivialities and subterfuges be avoided and that a desire for honest and fair argument be exhibited. Those who are land owners will be given preference in case of over-crowding correspondence.

All editorials in The Farmer are written by D. H. Mason, unless signed by some one else, and all letters and other articles will bear the name of the writer at the head of the article. The public will know who is responsible for the ideas suggested and may value them as they please

But we suggest here that the arguments should be confined to whether or not drainage is a good thing, because that is the only question before the people at this time. Mr. Arnett will consent that the Police Jury withdraw the ordinance and reconsider its action in this matter, and will pay out of his own pocket the cost of publishing it. The object now is to educate the people as to the value of drainage and the campaign will be an instructive one. When the time comes to again put ordinances in operation the people will have an opportunity to discuss the districts; and when they are asked to vote for drainage they may vote for or against it, as they see fit. It is hoped by that time nearly every one will be for it. But if it be lost no one can prevent Mr. Arnett from draining his own lands and paying all the expenses, just as he would have to do in this drainage district now.

The question now is, ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF DRAINAGE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR THAT PURPOSE?

If you attend the meetings and read the discussions in the papers, by the time you are ready to vote you should know whether you are willing to pay the cost or not. YOUR DESTINY IS IN YOUR OWN HANDS.

SOME THINGS MONEY WILL NOT BUY

Did you ever stop to think how many things money will not buy? Money will not buy character, contentment, happiness, and those cardinal virtues that most elevate and ennoble life.

Money will not buy friendship—that binding together of men's souls for two worlds; and patronage extended in the wrong channel will only secure value in exchange for the cash expended. This old world would be so sordid and unlovable if money-making was the sole purpose of the business men. But year by year the money-chases is being eliminated.

The people enjoy shopping when a buyer and seller can meet on a common level; when each has a personal interest in the other. This happy condition can only maintain when you do your shopping at home.

Man is naturally a social creature. He enjoys social intercourse with his friends and is responsive to that personal magnetism so essential to success. Deprive man of the privilege of associating with his fellows and he would soon become a burden to himself and to society.

It is indeed a pleasure to "go trading" when you can also "go visiting" The merchants of the South are so congenial that they prefer to have a "social chat" with their customers before the selling commences. You always feel at home in the stores and shops down here. You know the merchants well. Perhaps your acquaintance dates back many years. They have prospered through your patronage and you have been successful because you received full value for your money and much valuable advice, counsel and financial aid when needed to boot.

Perhaps unconsciously, yet you have nevertheless built up a strong friendship— something you could not buy—but it is priceless. You and the HOME Merchant are good pals.

How many friends have you among the Eastern concerns? Not one. If you have occasionally sent your money to these firms the transaction was a "cold-blooded" proposition—you just implys sent them your money and they sent you goods in return, but you deprived yourself of that personal, companionable intercourse that elevates merchandising to a pleasurable standard.

Better stock to the Home Merchant.

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IT PAYS TO FATTEN CHICKENS.

(Continued from page 1)

fourth part meat scrap. Feed twice daily, morning and afternoon. Mix this mash to a crumbly consistency and keep water and grit before the chickens all of the time. Supply these chickens with a good quantity of green feed, such as sprouted oats, lawn clippings, etc., or waste vegetables, such as cabbages, beets or small potatoes. If skim or buttermilk is fed, it is not necessary to add the green feed.

Crate Fattening.

Crate fattening is the method used in which from six to ten chickens are confined together in each pen, arranged in tiers for convenience in feeding the chickens and cleaning the coops. The following ration and method is particularly adapted for crate fattening: 30 pounds of corn meal, 20 pounds of ground oats and 10 pounds shorts mixed with skim or buttermilk, which is available on many farms. The feed is mixed with milk to the consistency of thick or so that it will just drip from the tip of a wooden spoon. About three-fifths of the mixture should be milk, and it is advisable to use a larger per cent of milk in hot than in cold weather to keep the chickens from going off their feed. The birds should be fed lightly for the first few feeds, when they can be given all the feed they will eat up in about thirty minutes, while any feed left at the end of that time should be taken away. Crate fattening is only advised where milk is available for mixing the ration. The chickens may be fed either two or three times daily, and can be fed heavier at night to good advantage than in the morning or noon.

The greatest and cheapest gains are made on broilers which are usually fed about fourteen days, while the length of the fattening period may be shortened slightly for fryers and roasters. The greatest profit and the highest prices are secured from early chickens, whether they are broilers or roasters.

Crates and fattening pens should be kept clean and carefully disinfected. The droppings should be cleaned either daily or every other day, and after a lot of chicks are killed the pen should be sprayed with whitewash containing 5 per cent of carbolic acid. It is not necessary to treat the chickens individually for lice if the coops are treated in this way. It is advisable either to spray the trays of the crates lightly with a coal-tar disinfectant after cleaning or to sprinkle them with air-slaked lime.

The head of a concern which operates three large stores in one of the largest cities and handles large quantities of all-meat products recently made the statement that, in his opinion the poultry growers of the United States could do more to increase the value of their poultry products by fattening all poultry before selling it than in any other way. The proper place to fatten poultry is on the farm or in the back yard where fattening can be as it should be—just a continuation of the process of growing the poultry; or in the case of old birds, a variation from the feeding methods used for stock birds that will improve their flesh with the least trouble and cost.

Last year the writer was connected with one of the largest poultry killing stations in the Central South. The daily killing capacity of this plant was 1600 head of fowls. The writer does not remember of any poultry ever being killed or dressed in this plant that had not first been crate fed and fattened from seven to twenty-one days, depending on the condition of the poultry when received at the station. If this big corporation located in a city where labor was extremely high and scarce can make money feeding out the farmers poultry after he has shipped it off the farm the farmer or backyard poultry raiser certainly can make his poultry pay greater dividends by crate feeding and fattening before marketing.

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Number Twenty-Two.

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Don't put off starting your savings account—do it at once, and by this time next year you will have an account to be proud of.

We invite your account and will be interested in its growth.

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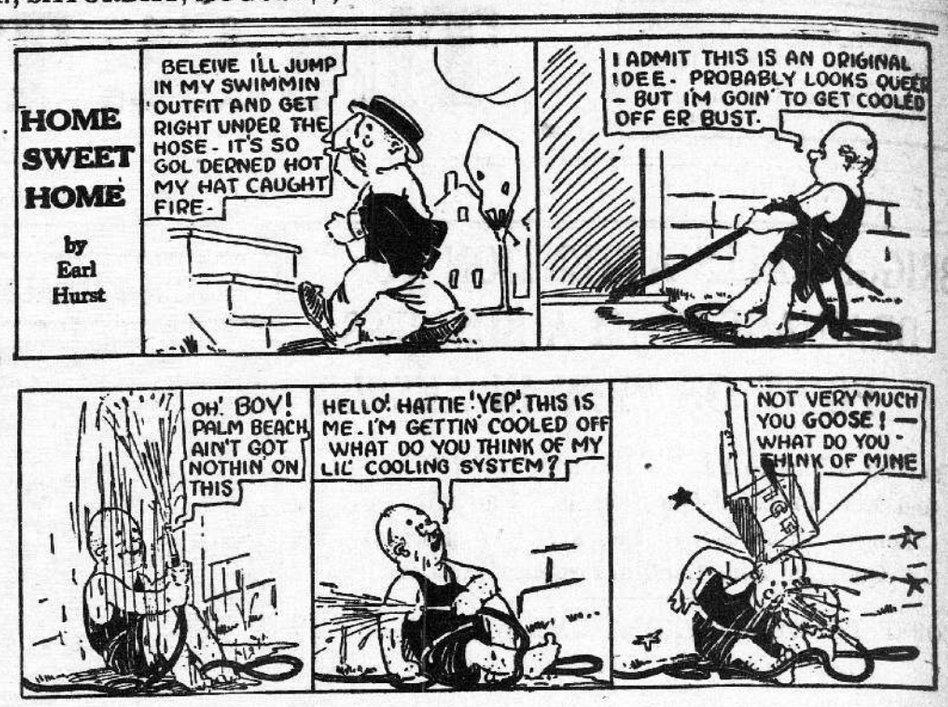

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We have just received some good cotton farm mules. Also have surreys and harness, cheap. Leather halters, 75c each. Good Texas saddle, $25. Glaser's Branch, Military Road. au7

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FOR SALE—Good horse, works anywhere, $38. Phone 43-M., or address P. O. Box 123, Abita. au7

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FOR SALE—Horses, mares and mules; (also stove and fire-place wood. Ed. Brunet, Phone 235, Covington, La. ap3

WANTED—A modern furnished home for winter, close in town. References furnished. Apply Y-24, this office. au7

FOR RENT—Store now occupied by P. E. Smith, Jeweler. Available September 1st. Cvington Bank & Trust Company. au7 tf

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We pay highest prices for clightly used and second hand furniture. Burns Furniture Company, Covington, La. Phone 8. jy24tf

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WANTED—Furniture and household articles. We do repairing. At Elmer's Exchange, Seiler Bldg.

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Rayne Cottage, Abita Springs, La. Pure Bred Belgian Hares $3.50 a pair and up.

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FOR SALE—35 young 4 to 7 year old broke and unbroke steers. Apply to Ernest Prieto, Mandeville, La jul3-4t

FOR SALE or RENT—A 6-room bungalow with large hall and front porch, 3 acres land, 3 miles from Covington on Mandeville road. Apply B. Peyroni, 1731 Port street, New Orleans, La. jul3-3t

NOTICE.

The Bayou Liberty Lumber Company, Inc., has this day been dissolved by unanimous consent, in writing, of all its stockholders, and E. P. Cousin and M. J. Cousin, stockholders, appointed liquidators to settle its affairs.

Bonfouca, La., July 1, 1920.

By order of the Board of Directors. j31-3t

FOR SALE—25 acres of land with 7-room house and out buildings. Apply to Mrs. Emily Sharp, one-half mile east of Mandeville, on the lake.

For sale, or will trade for cattle or automobile, 2 mules, 3 horses, 1 mare. J. M. Aoueille & Sons, Covington, La. m2ztf

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FOR SALE—Have a lot of fine Half Cotton Seed for sale. Address Box 627, Covington, La.

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for the office of Distirct Judge of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District, at the election to be held in September.

We are authorized to announce
JUDGE P. B. CARTER
for re-election to the office of District Judge of the 26th Judicial District, at the election to be held in September.

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At the beginning of the season a New York shoe firm announced that for every home run Babe made they would give him a pair of shoes. Babe might be hard on shoes but thirty-three pair is more than he needs so he has given the boys of a New York orphanage his claim to the shoes.

Yes, he has a heart for orphan boys as he was in an orphanage himself one time.