

The St. Tammany Farmer

D. H. MASON Editor and Proprietor
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PARKER WINS.

His will is like the bamboo grown in wind-tossed torrid zone,
Tho it may seem to yield and bend, beneath forces uncontrolled,
Midst gale growth uprooted it still stands as it had grown,
Unbroken as the faith of Him in sacred history told.

When John M. Parker accepted the nomination for Governor and declared he would destroy the New Orleans machine, no one doubted his sincerity but few believed he could do it. The enormity of the task can be better realized after the battle has been won, and it could not have been won without the united efforts of the entire press of the city. But it could not have been won without Gov. Parker behind it. Of all the great political battles of the municipalities of America it will probably stand as the greatest, and it will stand distinct and alone in the attitude of the press.

We can not but feel that the victory is one that will lead to greater things for New Orleans, better legislation for the state and a higher moral tone generally. Yet with all the charges that were made against Mayor Behrman we believe there must be much in his character that wins strong personal esteem. By his own efforts he climbed into the mayorship of the greatest city in the South. His repeated election gave him the opportunity of building up one of the greatest political machines of the country and it brought into his ranks men whose influence could not be denied and whose strength made concessions to them necessary to his security. It is the history of all ring control. To get things you must concede things. Your personality becomes engulfed by your political necessities.

Governor Parker shows the bigness of his character when he declares that "it is no time to crow over victory," but that all should get together and do things. There are many good men who were with the machine. All will be needed in the work that is to make New Orleans a greater city.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE SHOW APPRECIATION OF SANDERS.

On the eve of its death the New Orleans machine took a last opportunity of striking a knife into J. Y. Sanders, but he will have the consolation of knowing that even with the help of the few who still cling to the hope that they will be able to get a little more kick into booze the people throughout the state have registered their faith in him by a very remarkable and complimentary vote. While the chances are opposed to it with a big majority against him in New Orleans, he may even yet be elected. But if he is not, it can not but be a source of pride to him to realize the great endorsement of the people of the state who voted for him because of their confidence in his ability.

DRAINAGE FOR WET FIELDS.

(Continued from page 1)

a couple of days at a time. Such a condition of oversaturation crowds out the air, smothers roots and soil organisms, and is otherwise injurious. Note that emphasis is placed on the sub-soil and not alone on the soil. The big need of the day is deeper farming. Underdrainage is the real essence of deep farming. An even dozen of the more evident effects of good soil drainage may be summarized as follows:

1. Drainage removes the free water and firms the soil so it will carry the loads incident to travel and to farm operations. C. R. Melten, owner of the old John Johnston farm at Geneva, New York, perhaps the first farm tile drained in America, reports that he was able to haul two tons of green peas in a single load from his field when his neighbors, without drains, could not go on their fields.
2. Drainage permits the development of the granular or crumb structure of the soil and the maintenance of that good tilth essential for plant growth. It is easier to develop as

well as to maintain good tilth in drained soil, because puddling and lumping up are less likely to occur. With good drainage the big clods naturally go to pieces.

3. Drainage improves the ventilation of the soil. Ventilation is as necessary to the roots of most crops, and to the useful soil organisms, as it is to animals and to people. A saturated soil is poorly ventilated and is about as impervious to roots as solid rock. Root penetration follows soil ventilation; when drainage is established the roots grow much deeper than in wet soil.
4. Drainage increases the available water capacity of the soil as a result of the improved physical condition, the better ventilation and the deeper rooting. It is a well-known fact that crops on drained land stand drought better than crops on undrained land.
5. Drainage warms the soil. Water content makes a warm or a cold soil, and is the basis of crop distinction between clay and sand. The evaporation of excess water is a tremendous heat-wasting process, since it takes more than five times as much to vaporize a pound of water

6. Drainage lengthens the season. Approximately the same amount of sun's heat falls on each acre, but the land that is wettest is longest in reaching the temperature needed for plant growth. Ten days to three weeks is not an uncommon period to be added to the season by good drainage.
7. Drainage promotes the useful bacteria and fungi in the soil and helps to repress the injurious forms. These include the forms that change raw organic matter—manure, roots and stubble—into useful humus, and also the nitrogen transforming and fixing bacteria.
8. Drainage increases the available supply of plant food in the soil by reason of improved moisture and air supplies, higher temperature, deeper rooting and more active and numerous soil organisms.
9. Drainage reduces heaving. In a saturated soil the expansion of water in freezing is the cause of the heaving. But when part of the water is removed by drainage the soil is rendered so porous that the expansion is taken up within the soil mass.
10. Drainage increases the efficiency of the farm equipment by permitting its use more days in the season and also by making the operations more efficient.
11. Drainage reduces erosion. The Southern farmer has used contour and terrace farming in the effort to curb erosion, but he is coming to realize that better underdrainage is one of his best aids in the struggle.
12. Finally, drainage finds its place in arid farming, where it might be least expected, as the complement of irrigation. It is now being used to correct the ill effects of overirrigation, which ruins valuable land by the rise of alkali salts. By permitting free percolation of the excess irrigation water, with its burden of soluble salts, and by lowering the water-table so as to reduce surface evaporation and permit the application of the dust mulch, underdrainage has proved itself a necessity on much irrigated land.

Economy in the Long Run. "Drainage costs heavily," someone

THE SILVER LINING



at the boiling point as to change its temperature from freezing to boiling. By removing the excess water below ground this waste of heat is largely reduced.

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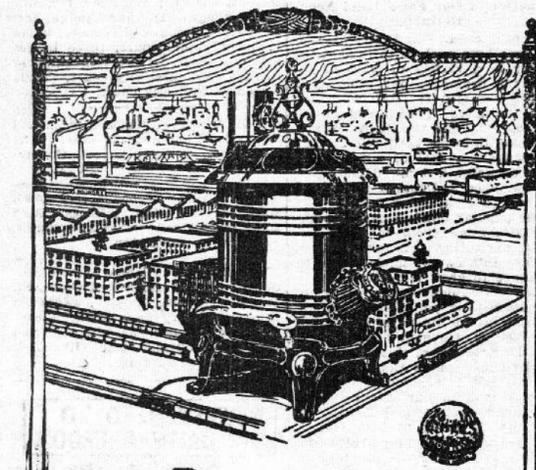
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