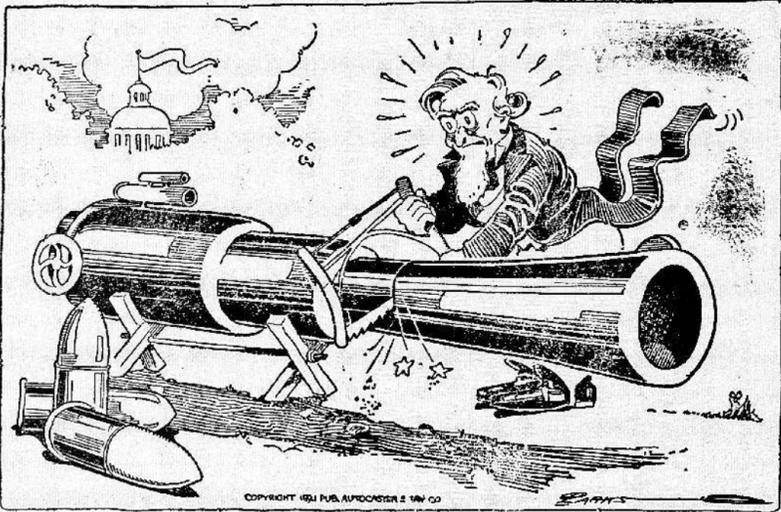


MAYBE WE CAN LIMIT ARMAMENTS, ANYWAY



The St. Tammany Farmer

D. H. MASON Editor and Proprietor
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THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT.

The exoneration of Governor Parker in the Long libel case had scarcely recorded the fact that serving the people in high official capacity does not leave him unprotected in character and standing, when the Senate disregards his agreement in the severance tax and proceeds to raise the tax from 2.5 per cent to 3. Governor Parker's position is familiar to all who followed the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention.

The question is not whether the big corporations can afford to and should pay this tax. It is a question of whether at the time the agreement was made a disadvantage between all parties concerned would have resulted in greater advantage or loss to the state. We feel certain that no one believes Governor Parker had anything but the best interests of the state at heart when he made this agreement, and if our memory is correct there was general rejoicing over the state when it was announced that all parties had finally agreed to a 2 per cent tax, which was afterward amicably fixed at 2.5 per cent. The "gentleman's agreement" between Governor Parker and the corporations as to this severance tax was generally sanctioned at the time. It was allowed to go into effect without warning of future interference and with every encouragement to Governor Parker to believe that his word of honor could be given to seal the agreement. Having pledged himself under these conditions, those who appreciate his high character and integrity could not expect him to tamely submit to stultification. His veto would naturally follow such a measure.

Until Governor Parker brought his energy and intelligence into the field there was little revenue from severance. Oil and mineral climbed the golden stairs of profit with light loads and easy steps and the glad song of dispensation was chirped merrily. But since he has pointed the way the "Taxation Blues" seems to have become a popular air with those who have come into jazz legislation.

FIGURES THAT TELL THE STORY OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH FAIRS.

Most of us know the history of the St. Tammany Parish Fair Association. Our first fairs, in which the women of Covington played such a prominent part, were held at Bogue Falaya Park. They were so successful that the fair association was organized. Land was purchased and buildings were erected on the present fair grounds. Then more land was purchased and new improvements are now being considered. Mr. J. H. Warner was elected president, and has held the position with such ability that while his business demands a great deal of his time he will not be allowed to resign. But let it be known that a handful of men and women everlastingly hammering at it and urging its importance and picturing to the people its community value has thrown out the life line that has kept it from sinking. But the courage that has rescued it is now supported by visions of a greater future even than was anticipated. More and more the people are learning the value of the yearly exhibitions, and it is noted that those departments which have been successful in attracting the attention and co-operation of exhibitors have been of the greatest service to the industries represented. In confirmation of this, those industries are enlarging and becoming more profitable.

This is especially illustrated in the poultry department. We started with a few coops of chickens, and they were fine, too. But the reputation of St. Tammany as a producer of fine poultry was little known outside. To-day our reputation is extending to other states and high priced eggs and poultry are being advertised and are receiving orders. It is generally conceded by expert poultry men that our poultry exhibit will compare favorably with that of any state, and exhibits at the state fairs are nearly always prize winners.

With proper co-operation and interest of the farmers, our agricultural department could be equally as strong. Our blue ribbons in this department will compete strongly with blue ribbon products in any of the fairs, but the trouble is that we do not have quantity and display. When the farmer learns that these exhibits at the fair advertise his products and help him to a higher price in the market and make him better known in the market, then he will commence to grow products especially for exhibition, instead of competing with haphazard field products.

We call attention to the statement of Secretary Minckler of the Fair Association published on another page. These figures show that the stock of the St. Tammany Parish Fair Association has a book value of about \$1.65. This seems to us a pretty fair showing and should encourage those who have stock to buy more of it. Those who own none should buy some out of community patriotism alone.

The New Orleans Item has made an excellent suggestion when it calls attention to the fact that New Orleans should make exhibits at all the parish fairs. This would be an advertising feature that would pay well and would encourage a stronger support in the exhibition by home business houses.

LEARNING WHAT GOOD ROADS MEAN.

Covington is on a direct line of the Mississippi Valley Highway. It would be natural for tourists to head this way in coming over the route, and when all connections are made many tourists will come through Covington. But within a few days quite a distinguished party of tourists came down from the Middle West, passing through Bogalusa, where they were finely entertained, and then on to Slidell where they were again given a good time by Slidellians. Traveling with this party were movie picture camera men, and we understand some excellent pictures were taken which will appear on the screens of the picture shows of the country. If the Columbia Road had been surfaced this party would have come to Covington, too, without losing much time. As it is, the road was too slow and rough and we lost the opportunity of being screened.

Moral: We had better get busy with the Columbia Road.

DRAINAGE PROFITABLE FOR HILL LANDS.

(Continued from page 1)
fect, and on open, permeable soil. However it can be used successfully on any type of soil if methods are employed to remove surface water that may collect in low places above the terrace. This can be done best by installing a complete system of tile drainage to operate in conjunction with the terrace system.

"In a combined terrace and tile drainage system the tile drains are laid in the depressions along the upper side of the terrace and connect with main tile drains that are generally laid down the center of gullies or draws to a drainage outlet at the foot of the slope." It is advisable to employ the services of a competent and experienced engineer to design and superintend the construction of a combined terrace and tile drainage system. "Instructions for the Construction of Tile Drains" and other information relating to the proper design of tile system can be obtained free upon application to the Director Bureau of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Too much emphasis cannot be placed up-

on the value and effectiveness of this method of stopping erosion."

"Some farmers who fully realize the importance and value of completely stopping erosion on their farms have gone to the expense of installing complete systems of drainage in connection with systems of broad-base level-ridge terraces. This unquestionably is the most effective method known to hold the soil of a hill farm in place. In addition to the removal of the surface water and the reduction of erosion many other benefits to the soil result from the practice of drainage." In fact thus used every advantage from tile drainage can be obtained on hill lands.

In some places one finds very remarkable examples of drainage on adjacent hill and flat lands. Rev. Father Thomas, of Mandeville, has recently returned from a several months' trip to his old home and other places in Europe. He was born at Spire, in the valley of the Rhine, in which neighborhood some of our American boys are stationed in the patrol army. The Rhine valley is wonderful for its agricultural development, and it is most interesting to talk with Father Thomas and look at his pictures which show benched terraces running far up the mountain sides so steep that animals and carts cannot be used for hauling up the manure or for carrying away the produce, but everything is carried up and down in large baskets with shoulder-straps borne on the backs of the laborers. Yet in spite of its mountainous character 45 per cent of Rhineland is cultivated, with 16 per cent in meadows and pastures, and the remainder of 13 per cent is in forests. The great amount of arable land is partly due to the terracing of the mountain sides. The great vineyards on the benches which make the Rhine wine so famous are a product of drainage, tile drainage. Everywhere in Western Europe and England the farmer is aided by drainage, and that is mainly what accounts for the much higher acreage production shown by the European farmer as compared with the American, notwithstanding that our soils are far richer in natural content. The European farmer builds up his soil, no matter how poor it may originally have been, in contrast with the American methods of exhausting the native fertility of our soil. Our farm machinery which is astonishing the farmers from Europe fails to turn the balance in our favor, chiefly because so few of our farmers realize the advantage to be gained from drainage and rotation of crops. The farmers along the Rhine working with obsolete

machinery or practically none at all besides hand implements largely through the advantages of drainage make every kind of lands more productive than our best American soil used for like purposes. The matter of good drainage is not overlooked by them; their pastures and forests as well as orchards and field are sedulously cared for—and properly drained.

So, when the St. Tammany hill farmer overlooks the advantages of drainage in connection with terracing, he is gradually losing his original investment in the farm and a large part of the returns he should receive from his daily labors, for every washing rain is carrying off the fertility of his soil and he is losing money faster than if he put all his change into a pocket with a big hole in it. Adequate drainage will increase the value of his farm and the amount of his farm income with every succeeding year far in excess of the cost of drainage.

Therefore, the hill farmer has a common interest with the owners of flat lands in a parish-wide drainage movement. As the U. S. agricultural experts say to him, he has need of the services of expert drainage engineers to lay out a drainage and terrace plan for his farm and to advise him as to the best method of handling his farm lands. It will cost much less to have the State Drainage Engineers do this work at the same time other farmers on the flat lands are co-operating in drainage projects. Now, while times are hard and the price of labor is falling, is the time to get busy and have the work done when costs will be comparatively low. It will bring employment to home people and relieve the hardships to all classes and occupations. The farmers who cannot at present prices sell to advantage could work with their teams and their individual labor on these drainage projects and earn good wages. Drainage taxes can be deferred for several years when it will again be profitable to raise the market farm crops, and from the increased produce because of drainage the farmer will be able to sell his stuff at much greater profit than is otherwise possible. Do not forget, drainage pays for itself and pays good profits besides.

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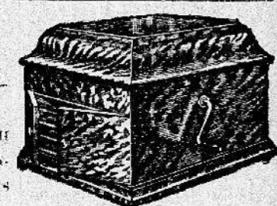
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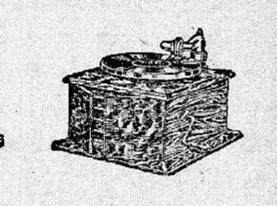
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