THE WHEAT CONVENTION.

Enthusiastic Meeting Held at Greenwood Last Week.

News and Courier.

GREENWOOD, August 15.—There has been one Convention in this State in which there was no mention of politics. This may seem wondrous strange, and it is remarkable, for there were men present who have had something to do with the making of the politics of the State, but the only mention of politics that was made was the plea that it should be eschewed. There was no applause except when it was on a hit about living at home and raising food products on the plantation. The Convention was a good one, and it has sown the seed for much good. It has shown that there is the dawn of a new day in the agriculture of the State, a brighter and a better day.

Congressman A. C. Latimer was asked to serve as temporary chairman, and Mr. N. A. Craig was selected as secretary.

Then, without further ado, the experience meeting—that for which the Convention met—started. Some one present said that Mr. C. P. Roberts, of Greenwood, had just sold two hundred bushels of wheat, and wanted his views. Mr. Roberts believes in deep ploughing in preparing lands for planting wheat, and mixes fertilizers with his cotton seed on his lands; made a yield of 253 bushels on 16 or 18 acres; prefers the blue stem wheat for this section for planting; has never been troubled with rust; always soaks his seed in bluestone preparation over night; thinks it dangerous not to soak as soon as he can after frost, and keeps it up until after Christmas. He sold his wheat last year for one dollar to one dollar and twenty-five cents per bushel, and this year for one dollar. He plants cotton and wheat, and finds more money in wheat than in cotton.

Mr. Eldridge C. Addison, of Ninety-Six, said that he had been studying small grain for twenty years, and was a great advocate of the crop. He thought that the time would come, and the sooner the better, when not a pound of flour would be shipped into this State, and when, on the other hand, South Carolina would ship flour outside of the State limits. He made wheat very successfully on lands that had been given up as worthless and which had been run down to the heel; believed in stable manure on wheat; wheat stands all kinds of weather. He sowed ten bushels and made a crop of three hundred and eight bushels. Could not advise planting on cotton land, because the land could not well be prepared in time for the wheat crop; preferred planting after peas or on pasture land.

Mr. C. H. Jordan spoke in part as follows:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: There is no occasion which is to me more enjoyable and no compliment which I esteem more highly than the privilege of being with and talking to the farmers of my country. In the discussion of those problems, the solution of which is essential to prosperity in our future farm work, a subject is presented in which we are now most vitally interested. Conditions which did not suggest themselves a decade ago are becoming serious and formidable at the present time. While personally a stranger to most of you I feel that my own interests are identical with yours and that we are all engaged in a common cause.

In advocating a revolution in our farming methods I shall not suggest the adoption of anything which has not heretofore been successfully undertaken, and will give no advice which is not capable of practical application. It is quite apparent to any casual observer that our system of doing business is decidedly contrary to that which existed during the days of our greatest prosperity and consequent independence. There was a time, not so far back in the past, when the farmers of the South supplied the population of the towns and cities with the necessaries of life from the varied products of their farms. At the present time a large majority of our farming classes are helplessly dependent upon the merchants for supplies not only for themselves but for their stock as well. The heavy staple supplies which the merchants handle are grown in the far West, and the proceeds of the cotton crop of the South, which should represent the surplus money crop of the farm, is paid out to the farmers of the West. We are enriching not only these producers, but the railroads, wholesale and retail dealers, through whose hands these goods must pass before reaching us, and who charge a full commission all along the line. The crop out of which we are expected to pay for these supplies is sold at a figure below the cost of production, and there can be but one result to us from the continuance of such a system of doing business.

The great State of South Carolina possesses as great a degree of diversified resources as any State in the Union. There is not a farm in your State which cannot, by a proper method of diversified planting, under an intensive system of culture, be made self-supporting. The farmers of your State must realize that every pound of supplies which they purchase in the open markets is produced by other farmers in distant sections of the country who labor under greater difficulties than those with which we have to contend.

When Southern farms were self-sustaining open accounts were the only evidences of indebtedness, and the farmer's word was as good as gold. Sharp, shrewd business men of the world soon saw that there were fortunes to be made in the cotton crop if the farmer could be induced to produce it in large quantities.

The Western people saw an opportunity for building granaries and packing houses to supply the South with food if we could be induced to turn our attention entirely to growing cotton. The big railroad magnates saw the grand opportunity to increase dividends, multiply their rolling stock and otherwise fatten on the freights to be obtained by transporting heavy and costly supplies from the West for the Southern cotton grower during the spring and summer. In the fall millions of cotton bales would be turned over to them for carriage to the seaports or Northern markets, a second whack had at the great Southern industry.

The stock raisers of Kentucky and Tennessee were pleased at the bright prospect of supply for the future that beautiful Southland, where all that was needed to make a man rich was a piece of land planted in cotton, with a negro and a Kentucky mule to plough it.

Guano manufacturers saw at once that plant foods in enormous quantities would have to be supplied to keep up the fertility of the cleanly cultivated fields, and that the investment would be a good one. Cotton expositions were held all over the country and the white staple crowned king.

It has taken twenty years to whip the fight, but the intense greed of the world has done the work, and to-day the old king lies half dead in the ditch, while broken and disappointed mourners gaze upon the long trail of a disappointed past. While the farmer has lost in the struggle the country at large has developed and increased its wealth steadily each year.

I have no criticism to make of the farmer for so largely producing cotton, even with the costly use of commercial fertilizers, when the business was a lucrative one. But we face conditions to-day which are serious and which make impossible the future wholesale production of cotton as a means of developing future prosperity In the rich, alluvial lands of the Southwest, in which are embraced the valleys of the Mississippi, the extensive plains of Texas and Southern Oklahoma, cotton is being grown on an average of one bale per acre, without the use of fertilizers. The farmers of your own State, after using annually hundreds of thousands of tons of fertilizers, can barely average half a bale per acre. With these heavy odds against us and competition annually increasing in the Southwest, we will be forced to change our present system of farming. The solution of the problem by which we are to-day confronted must be largely determined by the efforts of each individual who is directly engaged in the production of cotton—and who, by reason of a full appreciation of his needs and condition, realize that he is an important factor in breaking the bondage under which he rests, that the freedom and independence of his business may be once more established, placing him on that high plane of prosperity which was so conspicuous in the early days of our fathers.

Fill your granaries and smoke houses with the products of your farms, stock your pastures with cattle, sheep and hogs. Diversify your interests and prepare to go into the markets of your country with a dozen staple products where you now only attempt one. Cut down your cotton acreage and diversify the crops planted. We can gradually get into the supply business and raise enough cotton besides to meet the demands of the world, and the price for which it is sold will be a profit in our business. Every farmer who has heretofore operated his affairs on the credit system must make a strenuous effort to use more cash in his business for what he is forced to buy and raise everything at home which his lands will produce.

I am satisfied that a larger acreage in wheat will be planted in the South during the coming fall than for many years past. We need shrewd business men on the farm as well as in other departments of life. Broad, liberal thoughts find birth in higher education. The farmers will only combine their common interests when confidence in the business ability of each has been gained. Unity among the farmers is one of the greatest needs of the present day. A careful, thoughtful study of the resources of the country will open up a system of diversified farming, which will bring profit and pleasure to the agriculturalist. Every farmer should have a thorough knowledge of commercial paper and understand some system of keeping books. At the beginning of each year a detailed account of what he owns should be taken down, representing his capital invested. An itemized account of every dollar expended, whether cash or credit, should be carefully entered. The cost of labor employed and the materials used in the production of the various crops should be specially accounted. At the end of the year his books will show the profits or loss of the business. Wherever errors existed in the management, the defects could be readily found and remedies applied. The boys growing up on the farms will catch the inspiration of systematic methods and business training, which they will be able to utilize with profit and to their own advantabe in future years.

I appreciate the fact that the days of schooling, as we ordinarily use the term, for the adult farmer has passed; that the only hope for the present and future cultivation of his mental faculties and the betterment of his material prosperity must lie in the local organization of farmers' institutes. The farmers' institute is without cost to its membership. I want to give my aid and encouragement to their establishment in every county in the South as rapidly as possible. If you have no institute in your State organize and begin the battle for greater success and prosperity in your farming methods. In these institutes the interchange of ideas, experience meetings, discussing and adopting the most successful plans pertaining to our business would meet and overcome many serious obstacles which retard, as stumbling blocks, our future pathway. What the farmer needs most of all at this time is encouragement and aid in the solution of such problems as will help him in his life work and the building of a future filled with contentment, happiness and prosperity. Organize and attend your institutes with a full appreciation of your needs and surroundings.

There are no people who have better opportunities for self-education than the farmer, and he should be quick to take advantage of the circumstances which place this highly desirable feature of his avocation within his reach. That farmer whose business is operated on a self-sustaining basis, who exercises intelligence, forethought and correct methods in the conduct of his affairs, fears no panic. The tightening of the money market, the crash of falling business houses in the great cities, reach his ears only through the medium of the heavy headlines of his newspaper. He is happy, peaceful and contented, and only responsible to his Maker.

But what of the farmer whose home is mortgaged in the Northern loan companies, whose stock and crop furnish collateral for the purchase of supplies? When the stringency comes, the crop fails to settle the obligations; the loans fall due, an extension is asked for and refused. The iron grip of the law is evoked, the property is advertised for sale and knocked down to the highest bidder. The wife is torn from a home which she has long learned to love; the little children are forced from the cherished playground, and another heart-broken farmer is added to the long and rapidly swelling lists of tenants, while one more Southern home passes into Northern control. This picture is not drawn from fancy; its realism is too often heralded as one of the misfortunes of our present farming system.

The solution of the race problem is a matter in which the farmers of our country are more largely interested than anyone else. The field of most serious districts is in the rural districts.

We have assembled here for a high and noble purpose, one worthy and fitting the honorable avocation in which we are engaged. We are here to discuss plans for the material betterment of the farmers' condition in South Carolina and to express our determination before the world that the future planting and growing of wheat will be conspicuous on every farm in the State. The reform movement is taking possession of your people in earnest, and a revolution of our farming methods is sending the pleasing sunlight of its advance into the mind and heart of every farmer.

For years there has been great rivalry among the transportation lines from the West, soliciting heavy freight for shipment into our Southern country. Wheat, or its manufactured products, flour and bran, have largely figured in the heavy tonnage of freights daily delivered to your wholesale merchants in the last twenty or thirty years. The daily consumption of foreign flour on the tables of our farmers has been something enormous, while our cities never enjoy bread prepared from home-raised wheat.

The universal raising of wheat in your State will be no experiment and no new undertaking. It will simply be getting back into the footsteps of our fathers, and forging a strong link in the desirable self-sustaining feature of our farm work. There are thousands of people in your State to-day who well remember when patent flour, sacked in Western mills, had no sale in your merchants' stores. South Carolina wheat has helped to furnish the muscle and brain of many of the most prominent characters who have conspicuous places in the history of our country.

In contrasting the agricultural conditions of the South as they existed thirty-five years ago with those of the present it can be more forcibly presented through a short illustration from a part of our history with which we are all familiar, and of which many of you who are here to-day have a feeling recollection. During the four years' continuation of the civil war the entire population of the South was blockaded on all sides. The continued call of troops to the front drained the country of its best manhood, leaving agriculture largely in new hands and under the restraint of perilous, wrought-up times. The entire Confederacy subsisted upon home raised supplies, and the invading army of the North loaded its commissary departments with the products of Southern farms. During the entire period of four years there was no suffering in any quarter of the South by man or beast for want of food, wholesome food, particularly flour. Our troops suffered for want of money and transportation facilities, but not because there was not an abundance of provisions of all kinds in every section of the South. Gen. Sherman commenced his memorable march through Georgia toward the close of '64, with nearly one hundred and thirty-five thousand men and thousands of cavalry and wagon horses. As he advanced on his line of march to the seaboard, and onward through your own State, his foraging parties daily replenished this vast army's commissary department with the finest bills of fare ever issued to any soldiery in modern times.

The full granaries, smoke houses and extensive, well-stocked pastures of South Carolina's farms supplied Gen. Sherman with an abundance of provisions, without any great detriment to our people left in the wake of his march.

It cannot be doubted that there is vastly more acreage in cultivation in your State to-day than at that time. Should such an army with its necessary stock equipments, start out through your State at this time without a well-filled commissary, depending upon the resources of the country to sustain its march to the seaboard, how far would it proceed without halting or looking to other sources for supplies? Suppose for one short year the population of South Carolina was blockaded and Western transportation facilities cut short off, what would be the consequence under our present system of farming? Famine would run riot in your towns and cities, and thousands of the agricultural classes would suffer for bread and meat, because our farmers generally do not produce enough provisions to take their families through one year. Of what a magnificent past we can boast and how glaringly it contrasts with the present.

In all departments of commercial and industrial life, except agriculture, the inventive genius of man is being utilized with every possible degree of profit to the various avocations in which the people of this country are engaged. The conveniences of all kinds that the world is daily manufacturing and placing before the farmer are tending to render him more helpless and dependent in a business which should be pre-eminently the most independent on earth. Thirty years ago, when the old horse-power threshing and hand power fanning machines were in use, more wheat was annually raised in some militia districts of the various counties of your State than is now threshed with all the modern improvements at our command, from the combined wheat acreage of two or three counties.

The young farmers of your State must look back into the early history of their fathers and shape their future course in agriculture by the self-sustaining methods in use on every farm at that time, utilizing all the latest and most approved farming implements that will reduce the cost of labor, increase the pleasure of the business and hasten that day of prosperity so much to be desired. The older farmers should resurrect the principles of farming in vogue during their earlier days and make of their farms commendable object lessons of what they know to be possible of the great resources of the State.

Plant your wheat not later than the last week in October, preparing your lands by deep plowing, harrowing and rolling. No matter how extensive or how restricted your acreage in wheat may be the coming fall do not neglect to treat the seed as a safeguard against smut. I have read hundreds of letters this spring from farmers stating that they could not raise wheat because of the ravages of smut. The Romans were afflicted with the same trouble over two thousand years ago. Scientific investigation within recent years have discovered the life history of the smut germ, and by continued experiments have found remedies, which, if properly applied, will in every instance free the grain of future disaster from that source. Smut is nothing more than a parasitic plant adhering to the grain, germinating with the grain and growing along with the stalk. Its presence is only discovered by microscopic examination. As the infected head of wheat develops the nutriment intended for the grain is absorbed by the smut germ and a mass of loose brown spores is formed. These spores, blown about the field by winds, adhere to thousands of good grains, and the foundation is laid for increasing disaster the following year. Smut does not, therefore, develop after the crop is planted and growing, it must be in life and attached to the seed wheat before it is put into the ground. Ordinarily a solution of bluestone, at the rate of one pound to enough water for immersing five bushels of wheat and allowing to stand for twele or fourteen hours, will eradicate the trouble. Do not allow smut to enter into your argument against wheat raising. A more universal growing of wheat will develop flour mills convenient to every section of the country. Produce the raw material and wheat will be at once erected for the preparation and grain into needed uses.

The widespread interest which the people of our cities are taking in the betterment of our agricultural conditions is indeed gratifying. There has never been a time in the history of our country when so universal an interest in agriculture was manifested by people in all avocations of life as at present. The world is awakening to the necessity of the farmer and the importance of aiding him to so shape his course in future that his business may be one of deserving prosperity and high usefulness. Upon the success of the farmer must unquestionably depend the continued prosperity of all avocations existing in a truly agricultural country.

All of these highly desirable ends and more may be accomplished through the adoption of such farming methods as will enable us to become more prosperous as the years roll by. Make your farm self-sustaining. When you have provided an acreage of diversified crops sufficient to meet the demands of the home supply it would then be proper to consider the extent of the money crop. Rotate your crops, plough deep, harrow and roll your lands. Increase the fertility of the soil, supply needed humus and improve its mechanical condition by growing leguminous plants everywhere they can be sown or cultivated. Institute a systematic method of increasing the compost heap and cut down the heavy bills for fertilizers. The legume and compost heap should be the farmer's bank; with their assistance he can at once commence to travel the inviting road to independence and weath. Without them he must continue to look for help only from costly and oppressive sources. Let the farmer work out his independence without fear or trembling, gradually abolishing the credit system from the future conduct of his business.

Greenwood handled the Convention finely. Every one went away satisfied and delighted with the Convention and Greenwood.

AUGUST KOHN.

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"I was so nervous I couldn't bear to hear the sound of my own voice when alone" says Mrs. Nellie Brittenhan, of Davenport, Thayer Co., Nebr. "I felt as though there was some one ready to grab me if the least sound was made. I really cannot describe the feelings I had, but I can say I have no such ugly feelings now and I trust I never may again. I was suffering from female weakness and very much from nervous prostration.

"I was not able to do anything. I could not sit up all day. I had not sat up all day since the birth of my baby, four months before I began to take Dr. Pierce's medicines. I took one doctor's medicine for four months but did not get along at all; so, discouraged, I thought I would try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I took six bottles of the 'Prescription' and nine of the 'Golden Medical Discovery' and used Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets along with the other medicines, and I can say they have done wonders for me.

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