

# The Bossier Banner.

ESTABLISHED JULY 1, 1859.

"A MAP OF BUSY LIFE; ITS FLUCTUATIONS AND ITS VAST CONCERNS."

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME 34.

BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1895.

NUMBER 43.

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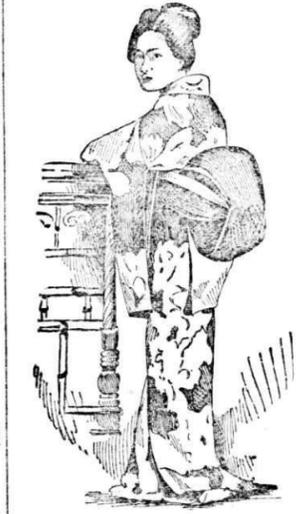


Perhaps one reason why people in this country are so interested in Japan and the Japanese is because they are our nearest neighbors in Asia. Then, again, the world is indebted to Americans for Japan. Time and again the Russian, the Englishman and the Frenchman had been foiled in their efforts to make the acquaintance of the Japanese, and it was not until Commodore M. C. Perry with seven men-of-war sailed into the Bay of Yeddo that the island empire was thrown open to the western world. Since then the rapid progress of the Japanese in western civilization has astonished the world.

Forty years ago the soldiers of the mikado's empire were armed with bows and arrows, long pikes and poles with scythe-like blades attached. They wore suits of armor and, to terrify their enemies, had false mustaches and assumed "beetling eyebrows." Nowadays the Japanese army is drilled, armed and equipped in European style, and the victory won by them in the recent war with their Chinese neighbors proves them to be one of the leading military nations of the age. Then the navy of Japan is a powerful one and is being increased very rapidly. Should the occasion arise the Japanese army and navy would give a good account of themselves even against one of the European powers.

The "globe-trotter" has made us all more or less familiar with the Japs as they are in their own country, and more thoughtful travelers have added many interesting chapters to the story. The first thing that impresses one in Japan is the beauty of the scenery. Gen. Grant called it "the Switzerland of Asia," though, of course, it lacks the rigorous winter of the mountainous republic. But it is a land of the picturesque, in which nature and art vie with each other to fascinate the stranger; in which the love of the beautiful is cultivated among all classes, and children are taught to use the brush and make pictures as soon as their little hands can be used. In Tokyo, the capital, the landlord of a house or rooms to be rented always includes among the advantages that "a view of beautiful Fuji-san can be obtained" from the house. Every house of any size has a small garden which is laid out in a miniature landscape, with hills and valleys, forests and streams. The latter crossed by tiny bridges. In every home the family altar has vases for the flower peculiar to the month; for instance, the camellia is for January, the plum blossom for February, peach blossom in March, the cherry blossom in April, the wistaria in May, the iris and peony in June. September's flower

of a native whose ancestors were warriors bold than the ascetic teachings, the self-abnegation inculcated by the Buddhist monks. But the average Japanese is extremely liberal in religious matters. He will worship at the nearest shrine, observe every holiday, and is a perfect Pantheist, willing to adopt any number of deities. Many of the Shinto and Buddhist temples are centuries old and are so beautifully designed and decorated as to fill the thoughtful traveler with amazed delight. Christianity has made some progress of late years, but, I believe, there are not more than 100,000 Christians of all sects in the empire.



is the enlala, and the famous Japanese chrysanthemum is especially prominent in October. In no part of the world are flowers and vegetation more appreciated by all the people—there seems to be a reverential feeling of admiration for the flowers, and that is perhaps the reason why floral designs are so generally used by the Japanese artists in the decoration of pottery, textile fabrics, metal work, etc.  
To learn something of the natives of the island empire one must leave the treaty ports (where the influence of the foreigner has been not altogether satisfactory in its results) and visit the villages of the interior. The Japs are the most industrious people imaginable and the most contented. There are thousands of small farms of three or four acres each which are cultivated on

the intensive plan, crop following crop in close rotation.

The Japanese are a much-governed people. The police system is so perfect that a man cannot move from one part of a town to another without the sanction of the police, and every man's name, business and residence is kept in the police station in the ward or village, so that it is next to impossible for him to disappear or to "turn up missing." There seems to be less reason for this close surveillance, as the Japs are the most law-abiding and orderly people on the globe. With a population of over 45,000,000 there are less than 10,000 prisoners in all the jails in the empire, and it must be remembered that there the law classes as crime what in this country would be considered misdemeanors.

Some travelers have written exaggerated accounts of what they are pleased to call the immorality of the Japanese. The truth of the matter is that the average globe-trotter generally sees too much of what is bad in the lands he visits. And in Japan especially what seems the most flagrant lies on the surface, so to speak—and is thus brought directly to the notice. In my opinion the Japanese are not more immoral than the Americans, French or English, but their immorality is of a different kind.

Religion enters much into the everyday life of the Japs, but it is so intermingled with amusement that one can hardly see where one begins and the other ends. Of the two national religions, Shintoism and Buddhism, the former is more popular with the masses because it is not so strict, its priests are not separated from the world and its chief dogma—the worship of ancestors—is more in accord with the feelings



of a native whose ancestors were warriors bold than the ascetic teachings, the self-abnegation inculcated by the Buddhist monks. But the average Japanese is extremely liberal in religious matters. He will worship at the nearest shrine, observe every holiday, and is a perfect Pantheist, willing to adopt any number of deities. Many of the Shinto and Buddhist temples are centuries old and are so beautifully designed and decorated as to fill the thoughtful traveler with amazed delight. Christianity has made some progress of late years, but, I believe, there are not more than 100,000 Christians of all sects in the empire.

In their domestic relations the Japanese excel all other oriental nations. The wife is, as with us, "the lady of the house," or, as she is called, "O-dama-san," the honorable lady, and she is treated with respect and consideration which increases with her age. The native standard of beauty is not that of this country, and the professional beauties of the court of the emperor would be considered anything but beautiful here. There are, however, many women, especially of the plebeian classes, who would be considered pretty even by Americans. This is notably the case with the professional dancers and singing girls known as "Gayesia," some of whom are very attractive. It will give a fair idea of the standard of beauty of Japan to quote the description given by a native gentleman at the Paris exposition: "The head should be neither too large," he says, "nor too small. The large black eyes should be surmounted by perfectly-arched eyebrows and fringed with black lashes. The face should be oval, white, and but slightly rose-tinted in each cheek, the nose straight and high. The mouth small, regular and fresh, the thin lips parting to show the white teeth behind them. The forehead should be narrow and bordered with long, black hair growing round the face in a perfect arch. The head should be jointed by a round neck to a large, but not fat, body. The loins should be slender and the hands and feet small, but not thin."

There are two types of feminine beauty, one of which is made familiar to us in Japanese pictures, on fans and lacquer ware, etc. It is the classic or aristocratic type answering the above description. The other is the common, round-faced type, which is more in accord with our standard of beauty. But if the Japanese women are not generally pretty they have the charm of sweet, low voices ("an excellent thing in woman") and a natural refinement of manner and gracious courtesy which many a civilized lady, so-called, would give much to possess.

Prince Bismarck derives an annual income of \$175,000 from the various industries in which he is interested.

## FARMER AND PLANTER.

### SWEET POTATOES.

To Keep Well the Tubers Must be Properly Harvested.  
To keep sweet potatoes well they must first be properly harvested. If the crop be intended for stock feed it is much cheaper to let the stock harvest it. Cattle may be turned on first to eat the tops and vines, afterward hogs may be turned on to harvest the tubers. In this way nearly all the crop may be saved at a minimum cost. If the potatoes are to be dug it is important to know when to dig them. The crop should not be dug when the sap is active in the vines. If, when a tuber is cut, the cut place partially heals over and becomes dry the crop is usually ready to be harvested. But if the cut place turns greenish black the crop is not ready to be harvested.

Vines are a great nuisance in harvesting sweet potatoes. There are two different ways of getting rid of them. One is to graze them off, and the other is to cut them off. We have used a sharp rolling cutter on the beam of a turning plow just in front of the plow point successfully. This rolling cutter cuts the vines off each side of the row while some dirt was thrown away from the row at the same time. The third time the turning plow was run in the center of the rows and the potatoes thrown out. The tubers were then gathered and sacked. Care must be taken not to bruise them as the soft rot is apt to start at all bruised places. All bruised tubers should be sorted out and fed at once before storing. We have tried Fosite, Bordeaux mixture, lime and sand keeping sweet potatoes, but neither one proved effectual in preventing the spread of black rot. We have obtained good results by letting the tubers remain in the ground where they grew until wanted. By throwing dirt over the rows with a turning plow it will prevent them from freezing in this climate. Further work, which is now in progress, is necessary in this line before positive recommendations can be given as to the best method to prevent injury by black rot. If the potatoes are to be stored away they must be dried first, and those which decay from soft rot must be taken out frequently. In about two weeks after digging they will be dry and the soft rot will stop. The potato house we have used in keeping potatoes, both sweet and Irish, is shown in a bulletin now in press. It consists of two outer walls with a dead-air space between. Also two doors, a double door and a ventilator. The ventilator may be opened and closed at will. During warm days in the fall the doors are left open for further ventilation. Inside are upright pieces which project from the floor to the ceiling. Strips reach from these across to the walls; on these planks are laid lengthwise, which are nailed also against the sides of the posts, thus forming long boxes. The potatoes are stored in these and dry road sand mixed with them. Mice can not go through dry sand. Potatoes kept well in this house last winter when the temperature went down as low as 7 degrees Fah., and not one per cent. was injured by freezing.

The sand must be changed every year for sweet potatoes, because it is very apt to contain spores of diseases which will infect the next crop. Where we did not change the sand nearly all the crop was lost from black rot. The potatoes that have kept best are Brazilian, Bronze, Canal, Shanghai and Southern Queen. The purple skin varieties have resisted the diseases best. —Texas Experiment Station Bulletin.

### FATTENING HOGS.

There Are Profitable and Unprofitable Ways of Doing It.  
One thousand bushels of corn should make 10,000 pounds of pork, which, divided among 70 hogs, would give 143 pounds per head. This would be a fair allowance of clear fat to the head, provided clover would make the frame, etc., to an equal weight, giving 800 pounds as the gross weight of the hog at selling time. On the system of fattening on old corn for the early market, this would be a fair weight or a spring pig to attain, and the owner would have no reason to complain if it did not reach 250 pounds. Allowing 10 pounds of pork to the bushel of corn in the above estimate does not reserve any for winter feeding, etc., but against this should be counted the undoubted fact that hogs running on clover all summer, and finished off on old corn for a month or six weeks, will lay on over ten pounds of pork to the bushel. Twelve or thirteen pounds would be nearer the mark.

Pigs dropped in March or April should receive liberal feeds of slops for at least three months, of which the basis must be cow's milk. If this is lacking, many will die of disease before green feed comes, and the remainder can never be forced along fast enough to attain a weight of two hundred and fifty pounds in early fall. To winter hogs chiefly on corn is not only very difficult on account of the tendency to disease on this constipating feed, but it is scarcely profitable.

Under most favorable circumstances it is very difficult to make a spring pig weigh two hundred and fifty pounds for the early fall market.

am so well satisfied of the profit in a bunch of good shots, summered on clover and finished off with old corn, that I do not hesitate to advise the wintering of most or all of them.

I should emphatically advise against keeping hogs eighteen months. A year is enough at the outside. The amount of corn it will require will depend greatly on circumstances. If they are kept eighteen months and wintered entirely on corn it will take fifty-five or sixty bushels per head, and the owner will realize no profit from the operation, or extremely little.

I have had forty hogs, about ten or eleven months old, make a very rapid gain on four bushels of old soaked corn per day, while running on the clover where they had been through the summer.

If not turned on it until nearly in blossom, seventy hogs ought to do well for the summer on fourteen acres of good red or white clover. But a good deal would depend on the season, on the strength of the land, etc. If the summer set in dry and hot, the hogs might soon graze that amount of clover close to the ground and it would not start again in volume sufficient to sustain them and keep them growing without artificial feed.—Stephen Powers, in Southern Farmer.

### GREED FOR LAND.

One of the Greatest Obstacles in the Way of the Southern Farmer.

One of the worst obstacles southern farmers have to overcome is the greed for land. Thousands have kept their noses to the grindstone for more than half a lifetime by trying to cultivate all out of doors. They did not, perhaps, want the earth, but they thought they could not get on at all without as much of it as they could pay tax on. The sine qua non for the typical southern farmer was a fenced field as large as he could plow over with his available force twice during the season, provided that rain fell only at night so that every day might count. And then he wanted at least half a mile of external domain on every side as a precaution against intruders, and to graze his mules on. The result of this sort of farming was enormous crops of weeds, and mortgages, and other things inconvenient to handle. There are some of these broad-minded beings still tickling the earth, and declaring that farming is only drudgery, and that there is no profit in it. Time, however, is riding the landscape of these so-called farmers, and the hillocks in the graveyards tell what came of the farmers. Those that are left behind are in the beaten pathway to the same goal. Thus nature, in her own good time, removes the stumbling blocks and clears the way for farmers who farm, and after awhile this will be the only sort left. This is the sort the world wants and will have by getting rid of all others by natural means. For a farmer who himself holds the plow, fifty acres is more than he needs. If he has children this fifty acres can be divided up into farms for his children, for he it is known that a single working farmer can make more profit from twenty-five acres than fifty, and more from twelve and a half than twenty-five. What he really needs, and all he needs, is the quality of land which he can give the highest culture, and to which he can apply all the skill and science at his command.—Farm and Ranch.

### HERE AND THERE.

—It is claimed that if rye is fed too long to hogs it causes itching of the skin.

—If a calf is only half fed when it is young, it will never be the most profitable animal to keep.

—Fortunate is the farmer who is forehanded and foresighted enough to keep a crib of old corn and a field of red and white clover to feed a bunch of hogs on for the early fall market.

—It is said that if two blankets are put on a wet horse, the moisture will soon collect in the outer one, which may be removed, leaving the horse dry.

—Corn on cob, well ground with half the bulk of oats and mixed with hay, is highly recommended as ration for horses. The German cavalry have ordered such supplies.

—Increased attention is being given by the farmers of this country to dairying, especially to butter dairying. We think this is a move in the right direction, and if intelligently pursued will result in the greater prosperity of the farming class.

—Probably the cheapest meat that the farmer ever makes is the pork that he makes on clover. Of course reference here is had not so much to the actual pork which fills the barrel at Christmas as to the muscle and bone that are built up and the general foundation which is laid for that fat.

—The annual loss to productive industries in the United States caused by insects is estimated at \$150,000,000. Here is a fair battle between man and another sort of earth occupiers. They are smaller, but if they can whip us they have undoubtedly as good a right to the world as we have.

—The more we study the subject the more are we convinced that farmers can not afford to keep any of their land in pastures, especially in the older sections of the country, where the value of land is from half a hundred dollars per acre upward, and where the interest on the value of an acre is from three to eight dollars.