

The Farmers' Vindicator.

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Time to Cut Grass for Hay.

The season for cutting grass and hay making is nearly at hand. An operation so simple as that of cutting and curing hay every farmer feels that he understands, and would disdain, on this subject any attempt to advise or instruct him. But the wise are glad to examine any subject, on which possible discussion or inquiry may throw some light, correct prejudices, or suggest new and better means of management. The wise in respect to any and every subject are never too wise to learn; and though their own observations or suggestions may have no just foundation, and pertinency, they may be useful if they excite the inquiries and elicit the observations of wiser and more experienced minds.

The rule for cutting grass when it first comes into flower applies to nearly every species of herbage, which is to be dried for winter food; but to coarse hay, the produce of wet, marshy grounds, it is more strongly applicable, for most of the plants that grow in these situations, when they are in full vigor are as tender and contain as great a proportion of nourishing juices as any other description of hay, and when cut at that stage and properly cured afterwards, form a valuable article of food for stock; but when the cutting is delayed, as it often is, until an advanced period of the season, when the plants have not only reached their ultimate growth, but begun to decay, this description of herbage becomes at once the coarsest and the least nourishing of all food.

The above opinion, here given, is not from theory, but from the solid grounds of experiments carefully made, on different kinds of herbage and at different periods of their growth, the result of which establishes a fact which cannot be too generally known, viz: That plants of all sorts, if they are cut when in full vigor, before they have matured their seeds, contain weight for weight, a quantity of nourishing matter nearly double what they do when allowed to attain their full growth, and make some progress towards decay.

These suggestions are stated with great confidence, and are entitled to much consideration from our farmers; as much valuable hay may be made from our wet lands, creek and branch banks, and deserves particular attention. The cutting and curing of these grasses receive very little care; they are left standing generally until very late in the season, and when cut at that time, the hay from them is almost worthless except for litter; but when cut when in bloom it makes good hay which is much relished and greedily eaten by all kinds of stock and is much better than nine-tenths of the hay we receive from the North.

LUCK IN BUSINESS.—Nothing is more common than to hear people complain that they have no luck, that they cannot get on in the battle of life; that every avenue of business is overcrowded; and they languish in obscurity and pine in neglect, they grow old before their time, and die at last of disappointment and heart-sickness. Undoubtedly, there are many sad instances of capacity overlooked and talent slighted, but the complaint, as a general thing, is false and foolish, and the evil is in the complainers and not in the world. A knowledge of our own capacities and a fixed and steady aim, steadiness of purpose and persistent effort are conditions of, and will command success in almost any business. That is the luck to rely upon.

WHO PAY THE TAXES?

This is THE QUESTION that interests every farmer in the State. We do not deny that capitalists, merchants and railroads pay taxes directly to the county and State, but they only pay directly, while the land-owners pay both directly and indirectly. The farmers have to pay their own taxes per valuation and assessment of property, real and personal, and indirectly the taxes on railroads by way of high freights and unjust discriminations, and upon capital invested in merchandise by paying heavy prices for what they consume, and to United States bond holders in interest on bonds which the government allows the capitalist to hold free from taxation.

This must ever be the case while the farmers are the chief consumers and circumstances remain as at present, and while the whole power of the country is in the hands of capital, as vested in railroads, banks and bonds. The few rule supreme over the many.

Let us illustrate the way this thing works in every day life. If a farmer or consumer wishes to purchase an article of any kind, he must go to the merchant and pay him a good profit on his wares, with taxes included, for he can rest assured that the goods are marked high enough to cover rent, clerk hire, freights, taxes and all other expenses of doing business and then leave a profit besides. The same is the case with railroads, if they are taxed to any amount, the producer and consumer would have just the amount of that tax to pay by an increased railroad tariff. But how is it with the United States bond-holders? They have no taxes to pay, not even indirectly. They go on from year to year drawing this interest in gold, to buy more bonds to draw more interest, until this centralized capital has become the controlling power in the land.

Capital in the present condition of affairs fixes prices both ways, it sets the price on the farmers products and upon the goods sold to them; while the producing classes will have to bow their heads in ruinous submission; and such, we fear, will ever be the case while we are represented by corruption and our tax laws remain at variance with the interests of agriculture.

The true policy of the government, both State and National, should be to build up the agricultural interests of the country the foundation of its greatness and power. We could never see the justness of making the bond-holders a privileged class and exempt them from the burden of sustaining the government. It has made them proud and they look with indignation and horror upon any movement on the part of the farmers to relieve themselves from the great burden of unequal taxation. All taxes find their way back to the land-owners and hang as an incubus upon the industrial interests of the country.

AGRICULTURE AS A VOCATION.

We recur so often to the subject of agriculture as a vocation, because we wish the farmers, and young men of our State, to have a proper appreciation of the dignity of the calling.

We often hear the observation made by farmers' sons, that farming is not a "genteel occupation." It is a sad mistake, to suppose that it is the particular vocation of man that makes him genteel or worthy of respect. We all know men in every position in life, who, by uprightness of character and ability in their particular pursuit, dignify their occupation, and win respect and esteem from all whose opinions are worth anything.

Agriculture as a vocation, if properly conducted, is healthful, regular, independent, and far more remunerative, taking into consideration the number who follow it, than any other calling.

We readily admit, that careless, slovenly and discontented farming is a hard life; but the same course pursued in any other business will lead to the same results. Agriculture rightly pursued, furnishes constant, pleasant and elevating employment for the mind as well as the body. The study and management of the soil, of the atmosphere, of plants, of fruits, of flowers, and of stock, are all of them directly connected with farming, and contribute to success in its pursuit, and make it a source of enjoyment.

Agriculture is the basis of our whole national wealth and power; and would you not, like the late David Dickson of Georgia, be the foremost farmer in Mississippi; leading the van in all useful improvements, striving to elevate the system of farming and the farmer, and rousing all around you to new life and progress, than to be the highest official in the land?

We must impress upon the minds of our young people, the importance and dignity of agriculture, and make them contented and happy at the old homestead. With all the admitted folly of the young men, in being carried away by the delusive seductions of town life. Might not something be done to make home more attractive? Might not pleasant evenings be devoted oftener to friendly visitors around the tea-table, with papers, books, pictures, magazines and fun, to make them entertaining. We know well, in thousands of farm-houses in Mississippi, all this and more is done now, and done well; but is there not yet room for improvement on ten thousand farms?

Chicken Cholera.

By request, we again publish the following remedy for this fatal disease. It appeared in the VINDICATOR of April 3d, 1874. Hear what a correspondent says about it: "I have used kerosene oil with marked success as a remedy for chicken cholera. I had a pullet which was actually on its last legs, not able or willing to feed any more. My better half took some grits, mixed with it enough kerosene to make it into pills, and crammed the pills down its throat. The effect was, I may say instantaneous. At the next regular feeding of the fowls, it appeared and ate; since then it has got well. I have now made it a rule to feed corn, thus mixed with kerosene, three times a week, and since adopting this mode have had no new cases of cholera."

Another remedy a friend gave us, is to use grits and bones. Each is parched quite black and the bones reduced to powder; then mix together with sufficient water to make it into a paste, and give it to the chickens. He assures us since he adopted this remedy he has lost none.

Still another remedy.—Mrs. T. B., of Cobden, Ill., says: "Take peach tree leaves and boil them in water; make the water very strong; then strain the leaves out and stir in enough corn meal to absorb all the water." This is said to be a sure remedy. The above are simple remedies for that fatal disease among chickens. We hope some of our lady friends will try them, and report success or failure.

KEEP AHEAD OF YOUR WORK.

This is good advice in any business, but especially is it applicable to agriculture. The great trouble with us at the South is, that we lay out too much work for ourselves to do. We get a great many things half done, and work twice as hard as need be in consequence, when the same amount of labor if previously expended would have a three-fold result. This is just how it is, when we come to cultivate our crops and war upon the weeds and grass. We are so accustomed to get into a "great hurry" about putting in the crops in time, that we forget the weed crop that is already in the ground. We have not unfrequently seen the greatest exertions in getting in seeds, that would have done just as well a week later and if that time had been spent in rebedding or harrowing the ground would have killed the first crop of weeds and grass, prepared the ground better for the seeds and enabled the cotton or corn to get ahead of the weeds. If we would adopt such a plan in getting in our crops we could always keep ahead of our work.

A Good Record.

MAJOR WALL: Believing that reports from Granges are conducive to the "good of the Order," I therefore hand in an abstract of the records of Center Point Grange No. 535. Said Grange is located in Noxubee county, seven miles east of Macon, and the same distance from the Alabama line. Her boundary includes rich prairie lands; and a population four-fifths colored. It was organized about 16 months since, with 29 charter members, and have received by initiation 41, making present membership 70; of which number 40 are males and 30 females. Of the males 28 are married and 12 unmarried; of the females 19 are married and 11 unmarried. The youngest member is 18 and the oldest 73 years of age. Have lost none by dimitt or death, and none are behind with their dues. Have had, perhaps near 40 meetings, regular and special, and have failed but once to have a quorum (13 is our quorum number), the evening being rainy. So much for the "Inner Grange."

In the "Outer Grange" there were in cultivation, last year, acres and yields as follows: Cotton 5,040 acres, yielding 1,680 bales; corn 4,030 acres, yielding 68,510 bushels; oats 645 acres, yielding 7,740 bushels; sweet potatoes 50 acres, yielding 1,250 bushels. The number of hands and amount of stock employed in making the above reported crop were placed on file by the Agricultural Committee, but having been misplaced, can not now be reported.

In order to protect our products, there is a Standing Committee to act as a detective, to find out the parties, both the seller and buyer, to have them brought before the proper tribunal for trial; to employ counsel, if necessary; and to obtain means by subscription, from any one who is willing to stand on the side of right, to defray all expenses that may accrue in the discharge of their duties.

For mutual confidence and concert of action, the following resolutions were adopted, and are adhered to:

Resolved, That, as Patrons, we will not entice, or take away, hands from the service of another member.

Resolved, That we will not employ hands who are known to quit the service of another member, without first consulting the former employer.

Resolved, That we will not hire hands who are drawing rations (which includes house room and fuel) from another member, without his or her consent.

Resolved, That we will not go on bond for appearance, or appeal; or go security in any other way, for any person who has stolen, destroyed, or damaged any property or interest of any member of our Order.

All exceptions to the above to be submitted to, and approved by, our Board of Trustees. (This last clause is to permit a member to "bond" a party that may be embraced within the meaning of the fourth resolution, who may voluntarily turn State's evidence, or witness).

A section in the By-Laws makes any one ineligible to membership, who deals in spirituous liquors, because he is regarded as working against the interest of the Order.

This report perhaps is not full enough to be sufficiently plain, and properly understood; but it is to be hoped that enough has been stated to suggest something useful.

Yours fraternally,
T. N. COLE, Sec'y.

Good Suggestions from Holmes County.

MAJOR WALL: I read with great interest your valuable VINDICATOR, and have watched with unabated solicitude to see something from "old Holmes," but have failed so far to see anything. I cannot think it is for want of talent, for we have many talented men, who are zealous Patrons of Husbandry.

Now sir, I am no newspaper correspondent, never wrote an article of the sort in my life, though I am now sixty-two years old; never had the advantages of early culture nor a liberal education, was literally raised between the plow handles, and most of my school days were rainy ones, or odd times between the making and gathering seasons; but an abiding zeal for the cause of the Granges has drawn me out. Holmes must speak for herself,

though for the present at least, through one of her humblest citizens. We have a live Grange at Acona, ready to do every good word or work; and we have been discussing the (as I think) most important question that could come before the Granges of Mississippi. Almost every other subject has been treated, some of them decidedly ably, but the "labor question." Right here a question arises. Why are men so tender on this subject? It is next in importance to the salvation of the soul. This want of systematic co-operation on the part of the farmers of Mississippi, has well-nigh bankrupted the whole State; and thousands of our best farmers are now finding their money gone, fences rotted down, farms washed into gullies; ditches filled with sand or clay, and houses dilapidated; themselves infirm with years of wear, and unable to repair; their sons anxiously looking around for an easy place. Too many of them loafing or bumming around for a little of the needful, and too often an easy prey to temptation and crime.

Now, in the name of Heaven, is there no remedy for this woful picture, the most remarkable attribute of which is its singular fidelity to truth? Can't we change our "base line?" All can see that to rent lands, and furnish hands with teams, tools and grub, never can pay, while the hands do not (as now) make a support, and which they never will do while they are fully run and go to the field to work when they please and as they please, and there is only a technical difference between the above mode and that of working on shares. When I talk with my neighbors on this subject, they readily admit all I claim, but say it is a matter about which we must "go slow." Go slow, indeed! when we are rapidly going to starvation.

We have a climate as salubrious as Italy; a soil as productive as the delta of the Nile. Men, brave and wise; women, as true as the Britton, and as beautiful as the Hebrew; and yet we have submitted to unconstitutional taxation, unwarrantable and unreasonable legislative interferences, hordes of hungry cormorants and tricksters, until the whole picture beggars description, and it is difficult to conjecture what we would not submit to.

I propose a remedy. The laborer is the elector; his interest and ours are closely allied. If our lands are sold for debt he can't buy them. Let us quit after this year at once, and all together, this renting and farming on shares—pay wages, fair wages, uniform wages—repair our farms, vary our crops, live at home, and thus grow independent; beautify and adorn our lovely homes, educate our children, for education is knowledge and knowledge is power. "Then shall the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose." I am full of hope the masses will wake up. Co-operation we must have. Let the subject be fully ventilated. Crops all look well just now; planting going on bravely, etc. Please excuse this great length, as it is a great subject.

Yours truly,
H. T. H.

The Late Cold Snap.

Perhaps no such severe cold weather has been experienced at this season of the year before within the memory of the oldest inhabitant of this country. Thursday, Friday and Saturday were exceptionally cold. The thermometer indicated 22 degrees below freezing. We have made many inquiries of the farmers around, and they have uniformly told us that the larger part of all fruits are killed. The tobacco plants which were up, or just coming up, are killed. We are told that the young wheat is badly injured. Three days of snow in succession on the 16th, 17th and 18th of April were certainly an anomaly in this latitude, such as we had last Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The ground was frozen in many places three inches deep. Much of the early berries are killed. The probability is that what fruits that are not actually killed, will be very imperfect or fall off, the tender stems being injured by the freeze.

Last week we published an article stating that a scientific gentleman in Cincinnati had offered to wager one thousand dollars that there would be a tobacco famine this year and that the plants would be killed on or about the 25th of this month. The latter prophesy he only missed a few days, and we greatly fear his whole prophesy will be verified. Surely, the fruit crop looks gloomy, and we may make up our minds to do without cherries, early apples, peaches, pears and many of the smaller fruits this year. The freeze has done millions of dollars worth of damage in the country, and its full scope can scarcely be realized.—Toledo Blade.