TRUCK FARMERS ORGANIZE AT ATWOOD.

Rarge Meeting, At Which Prominent Out-Of-Town Speakers Make Addresses--Officers Are Elected, and Organization Perfected.

It was a representative gathering of the farmers of that community that assembled under the spreading oaks of the beautiful Atwood plantation, and it is from this meeting that shall spring forth a new era in the agricutural life of this section, and which will no doubt be taken up by the farmers of other communities.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ben R. Splane, to whom is due the credit of this movement, as he has labored hard to get this movement started and to get gentlemen here that could throw some light on the subject of truck farming.

The object of the meeting was stated, which is to organize the farmers into an association for the purpose of planting, cultivating and better moving truck of all kinds, to better their conditions generally and particularly to see that they get full market price for all products of their farms.

There was a determination on the part of all present to stand together in this movement, for it was impressed upon them that in union was there any strength, therefore it was to their interest to stick to each other and to the rules of the association, which will be drawn up by the committee appointed and presented at the next meeting.

Quite a number of visitors were present from different sections, attracted there by the desire to hear what would be said about truck farming by the gentleman that had been invited to address this meeting, and they were interviewed by our correspondent after the meeting and expressed their determination to organize along the same lines and also invite these same gentlemen to be present and address their body.

Mr. Splane had on hand Mr. Joseph Steckler, of the Steckler Seed Co. of New Orleans, and Mr. L. J. Winder, representatives of National Producers Distributing Association, of Cincinatti, which is the largest concern of its kind in the country, and thoroughly reliable as stated by Mr. Splane, for he has made inquiries into their methods of doing business, and their financial standing and has also had local banks do the same thing, and he expressed himself as believeing that we could not indentify ourselves with a better concern.

After the preliminaries of the meeting had been dispensed with, Dr. Foster was called upon to say a few words to the gathering. The Doctor said that sometime ago in Opelousas they had endeavored to perfect such an organization of the farmars of this section, but after reaching the meeting place, that the farmers were conspicious by their absense, and that offices were forced upon business men of the section instead of the farmers, who should be the officers of the association. "But I am glad to see such a good crowd of determined men here to-day and I feel that we are now going about this thing along the right lines. It is the only way we can hope to get any kind of prices for our produce," said Dr. Foster, "for everything else is conducted by an organization, even the boot-blacks are organized; so, my friends, let's stick together in this movement."

J. W. Jordon, General Agent of the Opelousas, Gulf and Northeastern Railroad, was the next speaker, and said in part, "I am glad to see you people take the initiative in this movement 'For in Union there is Strength,' and if you stand together, you will have the strength that you need to get the best prices for your products. We have rates from all the big roads that reach the Eastern and Northern markets, and can offer you unsurpassed shipping facilities. Gentlemen, I wish you much success."

Mr. Steckler was next called upon to address the meeting, and gave much valuable information to the farmers. Mr. Steckler said that he was ready to answer any question that those present desired to ask, and he was kept busy for a time by the farmers, who were eager for information on the different lines that they intend to get busy on at once. Mr. Steckler said, "You are a young association with no previous experience in this truck business, and I would advise that you confine your efforts to only these articles for the present, staples that can be raised very profitably here, that is, Irish potatoes, cabbage and onions; and I might add another," he continued, "Sweet potatoes, which is very productive and especially adapted to our country. I know some instances, where land on Bayou Black produces 250 barrels per acre."

He then gave information as to the best modes of cultivation, every word of which was attentively listened to by the determined farmers. It was indeed a lucky thing to get a man of Mr. Steckler's experience to be with the farmers on this occasion, for he has had a wide experience in this line of agriculture and knows the business thoroughly, and much valuable information was given to those present, and an eager and attentive gathering it was, showing that they were determined to throw off the yoke of Old King Cotton and bow down to him no more, Mr. Steckler stated that for the first meeting to organize such an association, that this was the largest he had ever attended.

Mr. Winder, of the National Association, was the next speaker, and he said that this was the second time his firm had a man down here to assist at organizing such an association, and he said "I like the looks of this meeting, it means business, I can see that. It is impossible to grow truck profitably unless you are organized, and do all business through your secretary or selling agent, which will assure you the highest market at all times. Whenever the acreage in a section justifies it, my concern establishes what is known as a branch office, with buyers present all the time; your produce is bought at full market price and you are paid for same f. o. b. cars. We get a commission on all of your sales, so therefore, the more the farmer makes, the more we make, so we assure you that we look out for the interests of the planter at eveay turn. We generally advertise 60 days ahead of our coming to your section so that you will know that a National man shall be on the grounds, and that your interests shall be looked for."

Mr. Winder also took up the question of sweet potatoes, and stated that the potato we were now planting would not sell on the Eastern or Northern markets, that the best variety for those markets was what is called the "Big Stem Jersey." He said "I have known this potato to bring from six to seven and as high as ten dollars per barrel, when you potato would not bring one dollar. If you want to sell to these markets, you will have to raise what they will buy." He gave much valuable information as to the cultivation of same, which can be secured by applying to the secretary of the local association. In regard to cabbage Mr. Winter said that the best variety to raise for the big markets was a small head, for if it is to large a head, it will be impossible for the poor people to buy them when first marketed, while a small one they can buy.

The organization is to be known as the South West Louisiana Truck Farmers Association, with headquarters in Opelousas. The following officers were elected; B. R. Splane; President; Ernest Richard, Vice-President; Dr. Paul Foster, Treasurer, Dr. R. A. Davis, Secretary. Head offices shall be with Dr. Davis at his office in St. Landry State Bank, and he especially requests that all who did not become members, or failed to give in their acreage and order seed, do so at once. He will be at his office daily between the hours of 11 a. m. and 1 p. m. It is desired that all farmers of this section who wish to become members do so at once, "and we want them all," was the voice of the meeting.

The following signed their names to become members at the first meeting: John Hidalgo, L. Franchebois, P. G. Hidalgo, E. J. Sullivan, B. Bennet, Jos. Olivier, W. T. Henderson, A. H. Garland, B. R. Splane, W. D. Horn, F. A. Fahey, C. Cottingham, Arthur Roy, Henry Roy, Alex Zerangue, Chas. F. Burr, Isaac Rider, D. O. Fisher, C. M. Carson, Frank Tweedel, Luke Hidalgo, Mamlus Savoy, Napoleon Franchebois, Joseph Hidalgo. The committee on by-laws was appointed and shall report at next meeting. The committee is as follows: B. R. Splane, E. J. Sullivan and A. H. Garland.

The following were elected as honorary members; Joseph Nickerson, L. P. Roy, H. Flanders, J. W. Jordon, L. D. Winder, Raymond Breaux, Leonard Issacks, A. D. Steward, J. F. Dezauche and J. G. Lawler.

Mr. Nickerson and Mr. Roy are of of Lafayette, and represent the farmers of that section. They were attracted here by the desire to get information on the truck farming business, and will start the same movement in their section at an early date.

Prior to motion for adjournment the National Produce Distributing Company of Cincinnati Ohio represented by Mr. L. J. Winder were unanimously selected to handle the association,s produce for one year beginning from the movement of the first car load.

ARE WOMEN RETURNING TO CUSTOM OF WEARING FIG LEAF?

The costume which made the Garden of Eden famous is coming into its own again, says the Toledo Blade.

Yes, that's the sign of the times, all right.

Every woman, from the devotee of fashion, who travels to accumulate a startling wardrobe, to "Honest Gawd Maggie," who hails from the pickle factory, is talking about it.

The "pantaloon gown" had barely made its debut when the "horror" creation of the French modiste appeared on the horizon, the supreme sensation of the hour.

Of course, more than likely the women whom you know will not appear just yet in anything so extreme as either costume, but you can never tell. There was a woman in Chicago who sallied forth in a sheath gown without any padlocks on it, and lived to tell of it.

But, getting serious, what is the trend of the times?

Are all the little feminine touches of dress, just like the feminine graces of manner, going to be relegated clear back to the days antedating the equal right of suffrage?

And won't there be any fluffy ruffles girls after a time?

And will our grandchildren rifle the cedar chests only to find awkward lengths of stiff, trouser-like raiment, as relics of the early part of the twentieth century, instead of the dainty fichus and laces that repose there today, a mute reminder of grandmothers who have passed into the beyond?

The wise people are saying that woman is slowly but surely returning to the primitive in dress. The peek-aboo shirt waist, the popularity of which has not yet waned, was a mild step toward the ultimate accomplishment.

The "trouserloon" and the "horror" creation go a little farther down the scale of retrogression. The price of fig leaves will surely advance. In fact, it is said that the inhabitants of the semi-tropical climes are figuring on a corner in fig leaves, even at this date.

The advocates of the new masculine toggery, which is intended to make the lovely women less lovely, insist it is the effort to get into comfortable paths that is leading designers to the objectionable extremes. But what woman wants to be comfortable at the expense of looking well? And what woman could look well in any of the creations that the last word from Paris says are "the thing?"

Of course comfort has had a little to do with latter-day costuming of woman. There was a time when the big, loose shirt waist would have evoked as great a storm of disapprobation as the trouserloon of today. That was in the days of the jersey, but what woman would go back to the jersey, even if it were maketed in open-work designs and put on the bargain counter?

Fashion has this summer dictated that every gown shall have a wrap to match. Some of the coats are entirely sleeveless, but they are coats just the same, and on a warm day the wearer is conscious of their presence.

This, however, is not an indication that the trend is toward more clothes. It is a passing fancy.

Wait and see what the next decade or two brings forth.

THE FARMERS VICTIMS OF COMMISSION MEN.

"Robbing the Hand that Feeds"...Exposes of Methods of Commission Men In Dealing With Farmers.

ORGANIZATION IS NECESSARY

In Order to Obtain Best Prices for Produce... Magazine Article Makes Striking Statements, Said to be Verified.

Under the head of "Robbing the Hand that Feeds," Everybody's Magazine has an article contributed by Forrest Crissy that every farmer should read and particularly the producers of vegetables.

It shows the necessity for the farmers to organize to protect themselves from the commission houses.

"The fact set forth in this article will arouse indignation, resentment, perhaps incredulity," says the editor of the magazine, by way of introduction to the article. "Is the grower of farm produce so helpless in the hands of the average commission dealer as the author declares? Is it possible that mean trickery, such as exposed here, can go on unchecked and unpunished? We can only reply that Mr. Crissey has been at work on the investigation, of which this is the result, for seven months past, and has conscientiously verified every statement of his charge."

The article is several pages long, which precludes its publication in its entirety by the Clarion. But it is an expose of the methods of comission merchants that chills the blood.

"In its simplest form," says the article, "one of the favorite schemes is to refuse a shipment bought at a stated price on the ground that it is in some particular 'off quality' or defective. The more perishable the goods, the more at the mercy of the commission man; he feels that he must act or lose the major part of returns."

Many examples are given. One is that of an artist, who acquired a grape farm in the country. His manager shipped the grapes to a commission merchant, advising the owner of the farm, who lived in the city of the fact. The artist went to the merchant on the arrival af the grapes, and bought several crates at $1 each, for friends. The merchant told him that there was not a bad grape in the whole consignment—the merchant of course did not know he was speaking to the original owner of the grapes. A few days after the artist-farmer received a letter from his manager, telling him that returns had been made to him that the grapes fiad sold for 25 cents a crate. The artist called on the merchant and asked for an explanation. The merchant told him that many crates had to be thrown out on account of being spoiled. When the artist-farmer remined the merchant that he himself had bought several crates at $1 each, the merchant told him that "If he didn't like their way of business, he could go to h—."

An instance is given where a bereaved widow had entrusted her entire grape crop to a merchant, and had received a 'knock down' of two-thirds of what her grapes had brought, although the merchant had promised to allow her full price. "Her money is as good as anybody else's," the heartless broker replied to one of the clerks, when reminded by him of the agreement.

It recites instances of the favorite method of the commission merchant in refusing and compelling consignments to go to the "forced sale." Railroad companies are authorized to sell perishable goods for freight charges, and the commission merchants, after refusing to take out the the goods, buy them at half their value.

The commission merchant knows that the little man can not fight, and that it is only a question of time when he will "lie down and eat out of the hand." "The destruction of the poor is their poverty."

"Knocking down" on the shipper, rejecting his shipments on false ground of "off quality," forcing sales at the hands of transportation agents —these are the favorite practices of the commission merchants.

Of course there are honest commission merchants, and the more they are watched the more honest they are. And that is the the reason that it is necessary for the farmers to organize. Without organization truck farming is mighty uncertain.

ST. MARTINVILLE VOTES DOWN WELCH R. R. TAX.

And Now It Is Proposed to Have Road Pass at Loreauville, Leaving Out St. Martinville.

The Welch road, which is destined to start at New Iberia, go to Port Barre, and later on to Washington, Ville Platte and on to Oakdale, received a black eye last week, when St. Martinville voted down a tax in its favor.

The vote stood:

For the tax, 47 votes.

Against the tax, 51 votes.

Majority against the tax, 4 votes.

For the tax, $49,722.99.

Against the tax $68,460.00.

Majority against the tax, $18,-738.01.

In retaliation it is announced that the road will try and get a tax from Loreauville, in which case the road will leave St. Martinville several miles and traverse its rival town.

"WHEN THEY SEE, THEY AT ONCE INVEST"

The Laconic Answer of Mr. J. D. Herr, of the Pennyylvania Party of Investors.

IMPRESSED WITH COUNTRY

Mr. Herr Is Connected With Pennsylvania State Agricultural Department, and Predicts A Great Future for this Section.

"This is the second time I have been in your charming country, and I expect to come again when the opportunity affords," remarked Mr. J. D. Herr, of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Derartment, when in the Clarion office Monday evening of last

Mr. Herr was one of the Pennsylvaniana's who were visiting the Union Irrigation plant, and the parish in general here last week. He was accompanied to the Clarion office by Major Anderson, of Washington.

Mr. Herr is favorably impressed with this entire section, and particularly with the possibilities of the Union Irrigation canal. "Myself and associates are highly gratified with the progress of the canal, and expect great results from it," said Mr. Herr.

"Those of our party who have not invested, promptly invested when they personally investigated the scheme—to see it is to prompt one to invest."

"With such a country as you have," continued the Pennsylvanian, "I see little reason for worrying over the boll weevil, panic, or anything else. Your fertile lands are amply able to countervail anything like that. Why, you can grow anything here. From the car window I saw a patch with tobacco, rice, sugar cane, cotton and corn—all in one small field and thriving."

BEAUTIFUL WORKS OF ART.

Mrs. Ben R. Splane A Master Hand in Chinaware—A Collection Worth Seeing.

The Clarion representative while attending the farmer's meeting at Atwood plantation, had the pleasure of being shown some of the most beautiful hand painted china that has ever been his pleasure to look upon, and every piece of it is the work of the lady of the house, Mrs. Ben Splane.

Some of the most delicate designs and beautiful patterns are among the collection, and every piece a work of art. She also showed several pieces of the lustre finish which will especially attract the eye of any one that loves the beautifnl creations of art.

In the collection are several pieces that are known as the indistinct designs, all the figures perfect in outlines, but seem to be cast from a shadow. This is one of the most difficult arts to master in china painting, but Mrs. Splane's work is perfect in that respect. A very large bowl was shown the Clarion man and Mrs. Splane said that this piece was worth not less than $50. It is an immensely large piece of crockery and a beautiful creation in china painting.

Mrs. Splane sells a great amount of her work and informs us that she had orders on hand now that would keep her busy for several months to come.

The Clarion man certainly consid, ers it a treat to have had the pleasure of looking at this beautiful work and the community is to be congratulated upon the good luck of having an artist of Mrs. Splane's ability among its people, and Mrs. Splane is to be congratulated for her accomplishment in this line.

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"Small Grain" the Celebrated Small Grain Whiskey which I sell for $2.00 per gallon, other houses are asking $4.00 and their liquor is not as good.

When You Want Express Chargers Paid add 40 cts With Your Order.

WHISKEY.	FOUR Bottles	TWELVE Bottles	PER GAL In Jugs
Capital	$1.75	$5.25	$1.50
Duncan	2.00	6.00	1.75
Small Grain whiskey, 4 quarts	2.25	6.75	
Small Grain whiskey, 5's	2.00	6.00	
Cream of Anderson, 4 quarts	3.00	9.00	2.00
Pioneer, 4 quarts	3.00	9.00	3.00
Lewis 66, 4 quarts	5.00	15.00	3.00
Lewis 66, 5's	4.00	12.00	
Old Pepper whiskey, 7 years old, 4 qts	5.00	14.00	4.00
Old Pepper whiskey, 4's, 7 years old	4.00	12.00	
Oakland whiskey, 4 quarts	2.50	7.50	3.50
White Corn Tennessee, 4 quarts	3.25	6.75	2.00
White Corn Tennessee, 5's	2.00	6.00	
Rye and Malt, 4 quarts	4.00	9.00	2.00
Hunter Rye, 5's	5.00	13.50	
Paul Jones, 5's	4.00	12.00	
Silas Moore, 4 quarts	4.00	13.00	
Murry Hill, 4 quarts	5.00	14.00	
GINS.			
Old Tom	2.50	6.75	2.00
Holland Gin	1.75	5.25	1.50

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Arcadian Waukesha Ginger Ale.

april 10 1909.

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IN BULK		IN CASES	
Dunkan Rye per gal	$2.00	Attakapas 4 full qts	$3.50
Private Stock "	2.50	Green Seal "	4.50
Edgmont Rye "	3.00	Cream of Ky "	5.00
Attakapas Club "	3.50	Murry Hill "	5.00
Green Seal "	3.50	Cedar Brook "	5.00
Cream of Ky "	4.00	Gilt Forestor 4 full qts	5.00
16 year old Export	6.00	California Claret per gal	1.00
Murry Hill Club "	5.00	Brandy	4.00
Swan Gin "	2.00		
Holland Gin "	2.50		

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