

The True Democrat.

ELRIE ROBINSON
MRS. MAY E. ROBINSON { Editors.

Official Journal of the Parish of West Feliciana, the Towns of Bayou Sara and St. Francisville, and of the School Board.

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Another Million-Dollar Scheme.

One million dollars from the State and the enactment of a law requiring that all parish superintendents of school be proved specially fitted for schools work and trained in the service, will be the appeal of Superintendent Aswell to the General Assembly which meets in May. This was announced by Superintendent Aswell in his address to the Public Schools Alliance meeting in Tulane theater, New Orleans, Saturday night. The appeal is in reason and should be heeded by the General Assembly. The education of our children and their proper equipment for the battle of life is the best investment the State can make.—Monroe News.

This is simply the revival of the scheme, in disguise, laid at rest by being overwhelmingly defeated by the people when submitted for approval, at the urging of Governor Blanchard and Superintendent Aswell.

"The education of our children and their proper equipment," etc., is a strong appeal, but no stronger than the pleadings for the school houses which were to have been erected on the hilltops and in the valleys throughout Louisiana, for which a million dollars were required.

Since the defeat of this scheme the State has progressed steadily, and throughout the parishes of the State thousands of school houses have been created and are being maintained by the people directly interested.

To appropriate a million dollars of the State's money for the use contemplated would be an extravagance which should not be tolerated. As now constituted, the State Superintendent of Public Education yields an all-powerful influence which would but be strengthened by any appropriation of money which is not strictly necessary.

Instead of considering an appropriation of a million dollars or less, as suggested, there should be a thorough revision of the system on lines more practical with thorough common sense.—The Caucasian.

A Botanical Discovery.

Prof. Reginald S. Cocks of Tulane University is credited with one of the most noteworthy achievements in the domain of American science that has been recorded in recent years. This is no less than the discovery of a tree new to botanists, never before having been scientifically observed and classified. The tree in question grows in north-west Louisiana and is of the locust family. For many years it was supposed that a complete enumeration of trees native to the United States had been made and the announcement of a tree hitherto unknown to the scientific world, when first made by Professor Cocks, was received with some doubt. The claimed discovery was of such importance as to merit full investigation, and Professor Sargent, of Harvard University, the greatest authority on trees in this country, and representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture hastened to Louisiana and made investigation. The discovery by Professor Cocks was fully verified, and the Professor is coming in for a great deal of glowing commendation of his scientific attainments.—Louisiana School Review.

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Preventing Damage by the Boll-worm.

The State Crop Pest Commission sends out the third of its papers containing "Timely Ideas for the Cotton Planter." Somewhat abridged, but omitting no important detail, we reprint it as follows:

To understand the remedial measures recommended, it is necessary that one understand something of the life history of the boll worm. This worm is the larval or "worm" stage of an olive-brown moth, about the same size as the leaf-worm moth.

The winter is passed by the boll worm pupa, or chrysalis, in the ground and from these pupae the moths issue in spring and deposit their eggs on the corn, then from 6 inches to 2 feet high. The larvae hatching from these eggs feed in the "bud" of the corn and when mature enter the ground and pass through the pupal stage. The next, or second brood of moths appears when the field corn is in tassel and silk and the eggs of this brood are laid on the silks of the young ears. The larvae hatching therefrom bore into the ear and feed on the tender kernels. The "corn-ear worm" and the boll worm are identical, being one and the same insect. These worms mature and enter the ground, as did those of the earlier generation, and the moths from them appear, in normal seasons, about August 1; but by this time the corn in the field has become too hard to attract them and the moths accordingly go to the cotton, which is their "second choice" as a food plant, and deposit their eggs on it. These eggs produce the very destructive August and September boll worms, which work havoc with the crop, destroying both squares and bolls by eating into them.

Now it happens that corn in silk is always the preferred place for depositing eggs, and therefore, if corn be planted in or about the cotton field at such time that it will come into-silk when the early August brood of moths appears, these latter will deposit their eggs in large numbers on the corn instead of on the cotton. Such corn often has thousands of boll worm moth eggs on a single ear. When these eggs hatch, the little larvae fight among themselves until but one or two, out of the many hundreds hatched on the ear, remain, for they are cannibals and will not tolerate each other's company. By thus colonizing them upon this late corn they can be made to destroy each other.

We therefore advise the farmers to plant a few rows of corn across the cotton fields, every 200 or 300 feet, making this planting between May 12th and 20th. This should bring the corn into silking at about the time the moths of the third generation appear.

The important feature to remember is that this corn must be brought into tassel and silk soon after August 1st.

There is a belief in some parts of Louisiana, to the effect that corn planted in the cotton field will reduce boll worm injury. The theory is correct, but the practice, as applied at present, is just wrong-end-to-for the early-planted corn merely breeds boll worms until August, is then too old and hard to attract the August brood of moths and merely turns them off into the adjoining cotton. Early-planted corn is simply a boll worm nursery, while late-planted corn is a boll worm death trap.

If you already have corn growing in your cotton field, go ahead and plant the trap rows between May 12th and 20th, as directed above, and let the early-planted corn stand until it forms "roasting" ears, then cut it, stalk and all, and feed it to stock. Do not, under any circumstances, permit the early-

planted corn now in the cotton fields, to mature there.

To sum up: first, plant a few rows of corn between May 12th and 20, across the cotton field every 200 feet; second, destroy all early-planted stalks of corn now in the cotton fields as soon as they produce roasting ears.

About August 1st we will send out additional timely suggestions.

Liquor Questions Before the Louisiana Legislature.

Although the Louisiana Legislature is not yet fully organized and its committees not yet appointed, it is evident that the liquor question will be one of the most actively discussed and most vigorously fought over. Already nearly a dozen bills affecting the saloons are before the Legislature, with more to come, and the issues are being more discussed than all the other issues combined.

It is certain that there will be some legislation on this subject; it is important that this legislation, whatever it is, should be carefully and intelligently framed.

We have already pointed out that prohibition has recently made great progress in the South and in Louisiana mainly because of the disregard for the law shown by many saloons.

This defiance swept four Southern States into the prohibition column, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Oklahoma, while Virginia, the two Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Arkansas have gone more than four-fifths dry. The Alabama liquor men tried to check the tidal wave by making some concessions to public sentiment; but they made from too late, and the State was swept away from them. In Texas the saloon men were more fortunate. After two-thirds of the State had gone dry, seeing the danger, they went before the Legislature and succeeded in getting—in spite of some rebellion in their own ranks—a stalwart regulating law. It has benefited them so far, but whether it will keep out the prohibition wave permanently remains to be seen.

This leaves Louisiana the only Southern State which has not taken any radical action on this question. Every effort will be made to induce it to act, first through the Legislature, and if that is not sufficient, through the voters. There are, as we have noted, twenty-nine parishes in Louisiana prohibition or nearly prohibition, a gain of ten in two years, and these ten among the largest in the State. During these two years 1200 saloons have been closed in Louisiana, and other local option elections are in order. Calcasieu will vote on the question next month. In East Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Vermillion and East Carroll vigorous prohibition movements are under way; and there are indications of eight to ten more local option elections this year. Two-fifths of the State in population, and more than half of those living outside of New Orleans, are already living under prohibition.

There will be at least half a dozen liquor propositions before the Legislature, of which the most important are: (1) Statutory prohibition, New Orleans excepted; (2) statutory prohibition, including New Orleans; (3) continuance of present conditions, with better control of saloons; (4) high license (\$1000 minimum license, State and parish or municipal), in order to close the dives and barrel houses, and (5) prohibition of liquor shipments into a dry parish or town.

It now seems probable that the advocates of statutory prohibition will unite on the measure exempting New Orleans, as was originally proposed by the Shreveport ministers. There was some opposition to this at first, on the ground that it was an abandonment of principle, while others objected because it

promised to give New Orleans a monopoly of the liquor traffic for the entire State, the wholesale houses here distributing their goods throughout Louisiana in original packages. But this opposition has largely yielded to the argument that if the fifty-eight parishes of Louisiana, containing 78 per cent of its population, come under the influence of prohibition it will not be long, probably not over two years, before they will vote to extend it to the city also; and, as a matter of fact, this has been the universal experience.—Times-Democrat.

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