The Lower Coast Gazette

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PLAQUEMINES PARISH POLICE JURY, ENGLISH TURN DRAINAGE DISPRICT, RIVERE AUX CHENES DRAINAGE DISTRICT,
PLAQUEMINES PARISH ROAD DISTRICT No. 1,
LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT,
BELLE CHASSE DRAINAGE DISTRICT,

TERMS:- ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE. Entered at the Pointe-a-la-Hache Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1912.

The Cost of Delivery.

Our parish is so largely engaged in the truck garden business and the results for two or three years have been so disappointing that everyone is led to a close analysis of the business in one's endeavor to put ones finger on the sore spot and to retieve it in some manner if possible. Gov. Hoard, of Wisconsin, in his well known journal, Hoard's Dairyman, discusses the cost of delivering a quart of milk in Boston. A Boston firm states that the cost of delivering a quart to the consumer was 4.4 cents, to which must be added 0.37 of a cent for shrinkage. The average price paid to the producers for one quart was 3.9, making a net cost per quart, when delivered to the consumer, of 8.67 cents. Thus we can see that the cost of delivery is about equal to the cost of, or rather the net price received by the producer.

Secretary Wilson of the United States Department of Agriculture has investigated this matter and he reports even a higher cost than 50 per cent and states that the producer would frequently get but 40 cents out of that quantity that would cost the consumer \$1.00, the intervening money being consumed by the middle men who are necessarily engaged in the work of distribution.

It is impossible to do this work without considerable expense. The banana men seem to have solved the question of distribution for themselves, but they have a fruit which stands packing and which, gathered green, ripens gradually and developes its fine flavor in this process of ripening. With garden truck generally these good results are not had and hence refrigerator cars have become necessary and these largely increase the cost of reaching the consumer.

We have no doubt but that year by year we shall learn better and better how to solve this problem of distribution, but at present it is certainly the one unsolved problem of the truck gardening industry.

Don't Burn the Trash, but Turn it Under.

UNDER the above caption a correspondent of the Progressive Farmer, writing to that journal, hopes that many other good Tennessee farmers will cease this fogy way of doing business and make one step forward toward scientific farming. He advises that instead of burning stalks, vines, crab grass, etc., to turn the growth under and thus get a fine lot of humus, as well as some nitrogen, the latter costing 20 cents a pound ordinarily.

In reading this we thought of some of the discussions of the Louisiana Sugar Planter's Association, in which every year the careful conservation of the trash and turning it under was one of the evidences of conservatism; that later on, influenced by the attack of the cane borers our planters, yielding to the exigiencies of the case burned the trash in order to kill the borers and later on again, in discussing the conservation of nitrogen, our scientists of the Association are again advocating turning the trash under, in order to secure its contained nitrogen.

All these matters are moot points in agriculture and we must be guided by local conditions and practical experience. Summer fallowing was once quite the fashion but has been abandoned in the Mississippi Valley generally so far as we know and yet is still practiced on the Pacific coast. Plowing up lands in the summer time and subjecting them to the hot sun is presumed to be wasteful insofar as the nitrogen of the soil is concerned. On the other hand, it may bring the lands into better physicial condition and the final results might confuse the advocates as to which of the ways was the best for the conservation of the nitrogen, the old way or the new? Trash burning or non-trash burning? Summer fallowing or non-summer fallowing? These things must be considered a good deal as are the diseases of our humanity. We must be guided by the exigencies of the case and do the best we can when all the circumstances are considered carefully.

National Highways.

THE popularity of good roads in the United States is constantly increasing and while there may be delays here and there in their construction, the good roads will finally surely come. A propaganda is now in operation in Washington to endeavor to facilitate national highways in the United States. France is one of the European States having first class national road ways, laid out in long lines and put in excellent condition at the national expense. From these national highways the various provinces have branch highways into their own localities and so the entire country becomes covered with

a first class road system. The French republic is of about the same size as the state of Texas, and the leadership that the Lone Star State is taking in agriculture and in politics would justify high expecta-

tions of the development of good roads in that state. They need good roads just as we do, but they have far less rainfall and have generally higher lands, these securing a firmer foundation for their roads and that at a smaller expense. We in Louisiana need the roadways and need them badly. Our people generally are convinced of that fact and stand ready to tax themselves and to cooperate heartily with the state and national government in the development of any large roadway scheme. Our own state government at the present time is doing all that it can to facilitate road construction and we believe that a very few years will develop a vast improvement in Louisiana in this respect. From a sugar planter's point of view good roads are imperative. Many a crop has been lost in the fields because of the inability to transport the cane to the factory over the impassable roads and with better roads Louisiana's agriculture will increase by leaps and bounds.

LaGrippe or Influenza.

This disease, which in its first onset seems to be so trifling in its character, is far more insidious than the average sufferer with it is apt to think. It has prevailed in the United States now for about twenty-five years and thus far there seems but little abatement in the severity of its attacks, or in the widely spread character of the disease. It seems so singularly contagious as to be as bad in that one respect as measles, whooping cough or even small pox, although not nearly so dangerous, if proper care be taken. On the other hand, the seeming indifference of the people to the attacks of grippe leads in many cases to pneumonia and to death itself.

A few years back the writer was sitting in his office and a visitor came in who was coughing and sneezing moderately and the writer remarked to the visitor that he seemed to have the grippe and that perhaps he would infect those around him. A few days later the writer had a moderate attack of the grippe which seemed to be traceable directly to the presence in the room of that other person suffering with the disease and sneezing and coughing more or

The numerous rains this winter have so affected the country roads as to make them almost impassable and they have led to exposure and in many cases to ordinary colds, from which quick recoveries are expected. These are the people that the grippe seizes with its greatest severity and those affected should be extremely careful as to any further exposure, as it seems to be a fact that more deaths are attributable to the grippe than the community generally has any idea of.

We are told that the disease is an epidemic influenza and has at times spread all over Europe and then disappeared for considerable periods of time. Its persistence with us during the last twenty or twenty-five years seems to be an exceptionally long epidemic and its entire great biessing to us, but the disease is so peculiar in its character and so ill understood that we can scarce know what to do about it or to expect from it, other than that those affected should put themselves under medical control at once if they desire to be prudent. The impression that these onsets of a slight cough, watery eyes and running nose are but the symptoms of an ordinary cold is very deceptive and it is well enough to recognize the fact that when one has the grippe the condition is a serious one and one that may very possibly end in pneumonia and death. The advent of warmer and drier weather will be welcomed as giving more or less relief, although this depressing disease has been prevailing during recent years to some extent throughout the entire year.

The Inspiration of the Country.

From the city point of view life in the country quickly becomes monotonous. On the other hand, from the country point of view life in the country is so full of work from sunrise to sunset that there is not any time for monotony and the days pass as rapidly as anywhere else and the keenest interest is excited in those engaged in the work of ordinary life, because of the frequent interferences caused by the weather and, on the other hand, by the study of the growth that is everywhere visible and is generally inspiring.

We have often thought that there is no place on earth more beautiful from an artistic point of view than is the Lower Coast during the early summer months, when the cane fields begin to wave their shining green leaves, when the rice crops show their pale peagreen color and the corn crops begin to change from their deep green to the browner color of their tassels and the orange orchards are rapidly developing their golden apples for the autumnal harvest.

To an intelligent cultivator all these processes of plant life become a matter of earnest study and modern agriculture and horticulture are based upon our efforts to secure larger crops and better ones with a given outlay of labor and fertilizers. One's hopes are excited and we may say one's ardor is kindled by observing the crops from day to day and noting their constant growth from planting to maturity.

We, however, on the Lower Coast, are not alone in all this, as now practically everywhere on earth where organized government exists earnest agricultural work is going on under the auspices of the government and the application of all scientific research thus far had and available is made to the growing crops. In the United States we have the reputation of leading he world in enterprising agriculture, based very largely upon our mechanical labor saving devices. There are countries, however, such as China, Java, the British East Indies and, to

some extent Japan, where labor saving devices are not so much in request as here, the extreme lowness of the cost of human labor making it as cheap as ordinary animal labor. Where these conditions exist, the result of scientific research in plant life are utilized in the way of directing the work of the laborers so as to produce larger results from a given quantity of labor.

The Black Sea country in Russia is the great source and supply of wheat for all Europe. There we find that American machines adapted to agricultural work are utilized to a very great extent, notwithstanding that the Russian landlords control an immense supply of cheap labor. In Japan the wages of labor are reported to be gradually rising and there American ingenuity in the manufacture of agricultural machinery is utilized by the Japanese who will import American machines and imitate them so well as to be able to produce the machines themselves.

We seem to be doing all that we can in the way of progress on the Lower Coast, but it would be necessary for us to effect some plying for a permit to run a barroom economies in the way of labor as (colored) at upper line of Fanny planwe haven't the supply of labor tation, that we formerly had and will be compelled to use machinery wherever possible. Years ago a Launch Standard very considerable part of the rice crop was cut by grain harvesting machines. The peculiar shape and fall of our rice fields interfere more or less with the economical use of these harvesting machines, but we must surely attempt to use them in the end and this can be done with comparative facility at least by modifying the shape of our fields in such way that harvesting outfits can be employed here and there without compelling each proprietor to own one. The grain harvest of the western states is accomplished very much in this way.

The public works going on in the great cities, the extensions of the railway systems, the building of wharves, the great sewerage systems and the construction of many buildings are gradually carrying the able bodied colored people from the country to the city. While in the end they do no better for themselves well, these people are attracted more or less by city life and we are suffering in the country from a lack of labor. Thousands of laborers could be employed in the Parish of Plaquemines to great advantage, but they don't seem to be available and many of those who have grown up here are now resident in New Orleans. We need more laborers or more labor saving machines.

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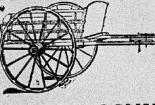
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