

The Lower Coast Gazette.

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Tractor Plowing and Tractor Cultivation.

The conditions that now environ us lead us as practical men with long experience in the sugar industry to conclude that we are upon the eve of a radical change in some of our methods of planting and cultivating our staple crops. With the most fertile lands in the world, stretching out into hundreds of thousands of acres, most of it well drained, it seems surprising that traction or motor plows have not already taken full possession of our fields. We must recognize the fact that motor plowing has come to stay and that motor agriculture will be the kind that will be carried on all through every process, from plowing the land, planting the crops, harvesting and marketing them, cutting up feed and, in fact, doing all of those things for which so much human labor and horse and mule labor have been required in the past.

It is frequently stated that no matter how well our cane fields may be drained, they are not adapted to traction plowing. There is a quick and ready answer to this, and that is that they can readily be so modified as to be very available for traction plowing. The standard Louisiana cane rows are from 3 to 5 acres long, or say 600 to 1,000 feet long. Traction plowing is done, as its name indicates, by gasoline tractors drawing a gang of plows behind them. As the ground is rough and as the matter of traction is rather a serious one, and the traction on flat grounds is much better than it is on plowed ground, these traction engines are expected to plow and to harrow the ground all at one movement, the disk or mold board plows working up the ground and dragging as close as may be behind them disk harrows to thoroughly comminute the ground preparatory to its use in planting. In this way the tractor engines stand on ground that is not plowed and are there able to exercise their full capacity. The whole outfit, however, is of very considerable length, say from 30 to 60 feet, and for such an outfit to turn around in a small field is a matter of considerable moment.

In great wheat fields of the West these tractor plows and harrows are used by the thousands. There, however, even the prairie land is somewhat rolling and many a plow moves in one direction a mile without turning around. In this country we can afford to specially arrange our lands for tractor plowing and this can be done by doing away with cross ditches and having our ordinary leading or water ditches run from the front to the rear without any or with as few as practicable of the cross ditches. Our cane squares are generally from 100 to 200 feet wide and if they would average 800 feet long, or as we would ordinarily say, four acres long, the squares in area would average about two acres each. These squares can readily be arranged so that one could enter on the road at the front end and emerge at the back end, turning on the rear headland, coming out again making a travel down the furrows and back of say 800 feet. By crossing the rear road and going into a similar cut of land beyond the travel would then become 1,600 feet back and 1,600 feet forward, which would make a round trip of about two-thirds of a mile. This, in ordinary parlance, would be "some plowing," but in our alluvial lands we can very readily arrange to plow the land in double cuts in this way. Any field manager, familiar with the work, could easily arrange for this.

On the Lower Coast at the present time Mr. Warren Buckley has a tractor plow at work on the Harlem plantation which has been doing excellent work. Our enterprising builders of tractor plows have seemed somewhat reluctant about entering this particular field, because of the smallness of the cane fields, but they will find that the planters of Louisiana will adapt themselves quickly to the necessities of the case if they are assured that the plowing can be well done.

In Cuba, in the central and western parts of the island and to some extent in the east, the land is coralline in its character and comparatively well drained and the fields are large. There tractor plowing is sure to be availed of just as Cuba quickly came to realize that the three-roller mills had to be changed to six and the six-roller mills to nine, and now the twelve-roller mills are beginning to attract attention, while all the world there has gone over to the multiple use of steam in evaporation. Triple effects are common and quadruple effects are coming into use quite considerably. The tendency in manufacture is largely to the utilization of big units and to thus reduce the cost of manufacture, and this idea prevails in every phase of the sugar industry.

In Louisiana it is found that the best results in cane culture are brought about by two crops of sugar cane, followed by one of corn and cow peas. This three-year rotation includes three heavy plowings. Land that goes into corn should be well plowed, in order to get good corn crops. With the corn up and progressing, cow peas are planted in the corn rows and finally cover the ground, producing the same effect in Louisiana soils and in all semi-tropical soils that is produced by the red clover in more northern latitudes. These leguminous plants result in the secretion of nitrogen from the air into the soil and thus promote plant growth. The peas, in order to produce the best results, should be plowed into the soil, and hence there are two plowings in one year, all of which could be done with these tractor plows.

For the planting of cane the land should be plowed flush again and re-marked off, and this takes another general plowing. The planted canes and the first stubble crop present condi-

tions that thus far have not yielded to steam or motor culture, but we may learn how to do something along that line later on. The facts are that if one has a thousand acres of land in culture, one-third in plant cane, one-third in first ratoons and one-third in corn and peas, such a planter will have 333 acres of land to be flushed, or flat plowed, every year. This work is so heavy and so expensive in doing it by mule power that the great cost deters most people from doing this work well, and if the work be not done well there comes a gradual diminution of the resulting crops. Long experience has shown this to be the case, and in cane culture practice, as in most other cultures, the highest grade of cultivation is the one that pays the best in dollars and cents. We believe that the day for motor culture in Louisiana is now upon us and that the enterprising manufacturers of these machines should come on to our ground and exploit them and let us do the bridging or arrange our fields in such a manner as to promote the successful work of these much-needed machines. The alluvial soils of Louisiana form an excellent field for such exploitation.

A Neglected Industry.

The most important "by-product" on the farm is honey. The most useful insect known to naturalists is a bee. The most neglected industry in the entire country is bee culture. The most profitable investment, all things considered, is that which equips a colony of bees for service. Bee culture receives less attention from lawmakers than any other industry.

The presence of bees on a farm is of inestimable value. They contribute more to the diffusion of pollen, thereby fertilizing all tree and plant life, than any other agency. Clover, alfalfa and such other grasses produce a profitable crop of seed only when bees visit the bloom in search of sweetness that is to be developed into honey. Melons, pumpkins, squashes and runners of this class receive their fruit-bearing qualities from the visitations of bees. Cucumbers will not produce under a glass, but as soon as they are placed where bees can have access to the blossoms fertilization results. Fruit trees are rendered reliable bearers when bees are plentiful. It is difficult to estimate the vast benefits that accrue from the prevalence of bees. Even the despised bumblebee is a most useful adjunct to bloom fertilization. If bees did nothing more than to perform their mission of distributing the fertilizing principles of innumerable blossoms they would deserve more care and protection than they now receive, to say nothing of the value from the yield of honey.

Like most insect life, bees have to fight a deadly enemy. Foul brood, both the American and European varieties, have gotten a strong hold in all parts of the country and a vigorous warfare must be waged constantly in order to protect what bees are now in existence. This diseased condition has greatly discouraged beekeepers and all of their efforts have failed to arouse the people to action in an effort to prevent the industry from annihilation.

Here in Iowa the Legislature has been appealed to for assistance. While a bee inspector in the person of Hon. Frank C. Pellett, of Atlantic, has been provided, yet he is without funds to properly prosecute the work and he has asked the Legislature to set aside a modest appropriation to be used in connection with the Department of Entomology at the college at Ames. Through this department a successful warfare could be waged against the encroachments of foul brood, and when bee fanciers become aroused to the importance of the industry and to the ease with which the colonies can be kept free from the disease when the proper methods are employed, there would be a movement set on foot that would mean much to the varied incentives that stimulate diversity and interest in farm pursuits.

Bees are easily handled when their culture has been properly studied. The housewife can easily adapt herself to bee raising and management and it will afford a happy diversion from the dullness of ordinary household cares. Boys and girls on the farm will find attention to a few stands of bees a most profitable and pleasant feature, and it will give them something to do that will stimulate interest in rural activities. The use of honey is increasing as its healthful qualities become better known. It is far more beneficial as a "sweet" than sugar and the candies made from it. It finds a ready sale at good prices. The bee industry needs a fresh baptism of interest and enthusiasm.—Iowa Farmer.

Small Cane Mills.

Very few persons have any idea of the extent to which the sugar and syrup industry is carried on in the Gulf States with very small mills. As is well known, the genuine sugar cane, commonly called ribbon cane, will grow throughout all of the Gulf States, up to their northern boundaries, excepting we may say in the Panhandle country of Texas and the northern limits of Mississippi and Alabama, but even there the same machinery is applied to sorghum cane, from which immense quantities of syrup are made. The Chattanooga Plant Company reported to us twenty-five years ago that they had already sold over twenty thousand small cane mills to the Gulf States between Brownsville, Tex., and Tampa, Fla. The demand for these mills has been going on ever since and is in fact increasing, as there is no other way in which a small farmer can do as much good for himself as by raising at least a limited amount of sugar cane and perhaps a considerable amount, and with a little apparatus of his own convert it into a first-class cane syrup that generally sells in the country towns for 50 cents per gallon, and, as we all know, becomes one of the best foodstuffs for man or beast.

INTERESTING NEWS.

STATE, NATIONAL AND FOREIGN.

Gathered and Condensed for Our Readers Benefit.

STATE NEWS.

The residents of Concordia Parish, La., are moving over to Natchez, Miss. The high water has frightened them and they remember too vividly the hardships they had undergone last

year, with their homes under water from six to fifteen feet deep. Three steamship lines have announced sailings to Argentine Republic. So says a press report. Three lie. Yesterday there were none to try a service to that great agricultur-

ral country—to-day there are three different lines. Why? As yet unanswered. Karl Von Tronig, now a humble bookkeeper in a New Orleans restaurant, has fallen heir to a baronial estate and to a baronic title in Germany. But the gentle bookkeeper likes America so well that he has not as yet done anything towards preparing to leave.

Dr. Dowling has been chosen as the head of the National Committee for the extermination of malaria. He was chosen at the National Drainage Congress at St. Louis, Mo. A petition commending President

The recklessness of revenge and the blindness of animosity are exhibited in this petition favoring something about which almost all the signers are probably unacquainted with intelligently.

The Mississippi River Commission has arrived in New Orleans, after an inspection of the levees from St. Louis down. The levees are in good condition generally and they hope with the assistance of good weather to pass through the flood period without as much damage as that caused by the weather and water last year.

Gen. Bixby, chief of the United States Engineers, believes in a levee

vances has created a doubt in the mother's mind. Though eight months of absence may have made the memory of the child a blank. The child has changed in appearance, but less than eight months of a wandering life could change a boy of such few years beyond recognition. The only physical marks of identification are scars on the boy's body which coincide with scars on the body of the Dunbar child. Though the little youngster may by association with his mother revive the tiny invisible heartstrings that forever link the mother with her offspring destructible by neither age nor time nor the most horrible cruelties practiced by that mother can never break them. In this world, that blood feeling of kin is everlasting and who does know, perhaps some day in Heaven it will make the son of the mother and her child happier. The boy recognizes his mother and asks for his brother Alandro, it is he.

All mail for the West Coast of South America will be shipped via New Orleans, beginning May 1. This move will save three or five days now used in transporting mail from New York or San Francisco.

The leaking in the Melville levee along the Atchafalaya River has been stopped, the sloughing has been prevented from progressing further after a battle which seemed hopeless and which lasted all night long while constant fears of a crevasse incited the workers to extraordinary efforts.

NATIONAL NEWS.

Senator John Sharp Williams and Mr. William R. Hearst, New York publisher, have both boldly attacked President Wilson's tariff plans. Senator Williams will offer some amendment to the proposed tariff plans in the Democratic caucus. He will nevertheless abide by the caucus decision even if it should declare for free sugar.

Mr. Hearst's editorial crack contains more personal hate than argument. It proves nothing. It assumes things about Mr. Wilson which to be sound must be proved—and after they are proved their devilish productivity must be proved also. It will be a factious more because of fear of the editor than persuasive logic of the editor.

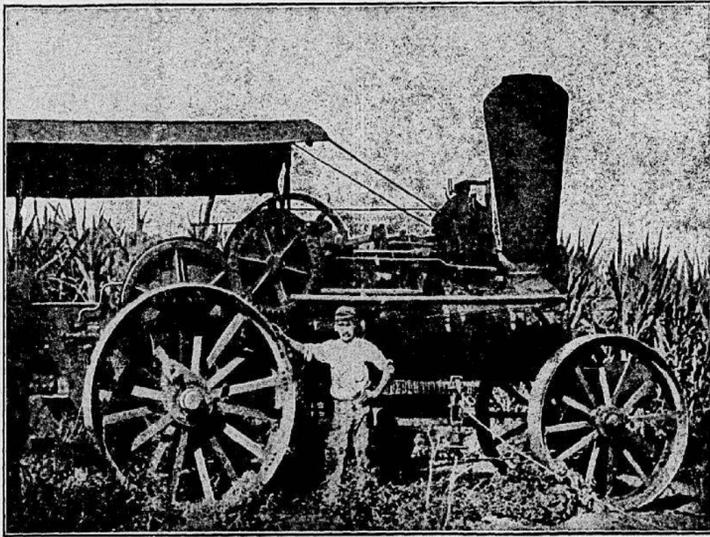
The result of the probe of the Vice Commission in Chicago is a bill providing for a State Morals Court with women as judges. The function of the court will be the protection of working girls. The bill will be introduced in the Illinois State Senate by the Senate's Welfare Commission.

The California law destroying segregated areas for immoral purposes in that State is opposed by some "business men." The referendum, whose author supposed would be a weapon against evil is the weapon by which these men hope to retain evil.

They believe that all business men will sign the petition. They are confident that all the well-financed forces of this evil will triumph over the unfortunately unorganized units of goodness and purity. And their confidence may be sustained. There are those who believe that immorality is a necessary evil. It is not. The centuries of patronage, both political and personal, and centuries of official indolence and clerical inaction have given the matter and meat for this popular delusion. The life of this form of permitted licentiousness and carnality has been long. It existed before the day of Christ. It is an institution of history from within which all the cruelties of history were breathed forth in blood. The most fiendish punishments and murders, the strangest disappearances, all the melodramatic events of history were because this permissible illegitimate gratifying of men's animality existed. Those monarchs who laughed at their people's woes were immoral. The greatest of authors have executed immorality. They too believed it necessary. The world has called immorality necessary. Were these horrors of history necessary? If so, then the evil is necessary and immediately ceases to be an evil. Only the church has cried out against it. When men first had to choose between the stern cry of duty and the sweet pleas of the world, they chose the world because in them was something which agrees so well with the world which when it heard the maiden song of invitation, felt the kindred spirit that rising up in them overwhelmed them with pleasure. It was the song of the brute. It has been called a great love song. It is greater some say than God. It reckons not with the result and feels rapturously only the pleasure that enhances for the moment. That is why the business men of California may win. That is why their confidence may be sustained.

Senator Vandaman, of Mississippi, will speak favoring the anti-Japanese legislation promised in California, if a Senate discussion should be precipitated.

Robert Dunbar, the four-year-old boy who was kidnapped in Opelousas eight months ago was found at Columbia, Mississippi, in the possession of August Walters, an itinerant stove man. The Legislature had made kidnapping a capital offense principally because of this kidnapping though the kidnapping and murder of Peter Lamana's son some few years ago is still remembered with horror. The man will be brought to Opelousas. Later it is reported that the mother is not perfectly satisfied the child found is her child. The behavior of the child towards its mother; its antagonistic reception of the mother's loving ad-



FOWLER STEAM TRACTION PLOW ENGINE.

Wilson's stand for free sugar was forwarded from Homer, La., bearing the names of over 100 citizens of Ho-

Columbus.

Behind him lay the great Azores,
Behind the gates of Hercules;
Before him not the ghost of shores;
Before him only shoreless seas;
The good mate said: "Now must we pray,
For let the very stars are gone;
Brave Admiral, speak; what shall I say?"
"Why, say: 'Sail on! Sail on and on!'"

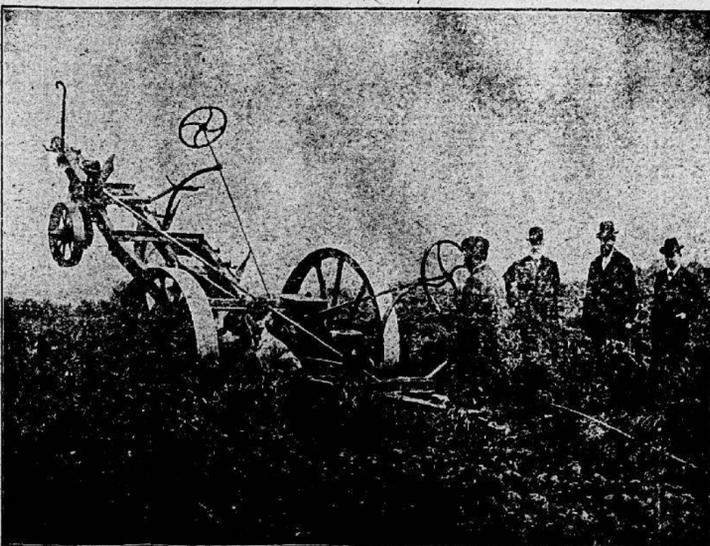
"My men grow mutinous day by day;
My men grow ghastly, wan and weak;"
The stout mate thought of home; a spray
Of salt wave washed his swarthy cheek.
What shall I say, brave Admiral, say,
If we sight naught but seas at dawn?"
"Why, you shall sing at break of day;
"Sail on! Sail on and on!"

They sailed and sailed, as winds might blow,
Until at last the blanched mate said:
"Why, not even God would know
Should I and all my men fall dead.
These winds forget their way,
For God from these dread seas is gone.
Now speak, brave Admiral, speak and say"—
He said: "Sail on! Sail on and on!"

They sailed. They sailed. Then spake the mate:
"This mad sea shows its teeth tonight;
He curls his lips, he lies in wait,
With lifted teeth, as if to bite!"
Brave Admiral, say but one good word;
What shall we do when home is gone?"
The words leapt like a leaping sword:
"Sail on! Sail on and on!"

Then, pale and worn, he kept his deck,
And peered through darkness. Ah, that night
Of all dark nights! A light! A light!
It grew. A start! A start!
It grew to be Time's burst of dawn.
He gained a world; he gave that world
Its grandest lesson: "On! Sail on!"

mer. So says a press report. Three names are given. Below these names it is printed "and a hundred others."



FOWLER STEAM TRACTION CULTIVATOR.

(Continued on page 4.)