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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE.
BATON ROUGE, June, 1881.

Col. Wm. Preston Johnston:

MR. PRESIDENT—It may be of general interest to the citizens of Louisiana to know that the Mechanical Department connected with the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, is now organized and that practical operations have already begun.

Within the past few months there has been a neat workshop erected on the grounds connected with the University and at a convenient distance, which is supplied with several carpenter's benches and tools, three turning lathes, with the necessary belting and shafting, a four horse power Baxter portable steam engine, a grind stone and some blacksmith tools, other additions being contemplated during the present month. In this building will be conducted various exercises in wood working, embracing carpentry wood turning, and pattern making; and as the occasion requires, the building is to be enlarged by the addition of rooms, which will be supplied with the necessary appliances for practical instruction in the manipulation of iron and other metals.

In reference to the method of conducting shop exercises, it may be well to say, that a mechanical course embracing a period of three years is to be given at the University, during two years of which each cadet selecting that course will be required to attend the shop exercises. It is proposed so to arrange the work performed that a cadet after the completion of his course will have acquired such varied knowledge and proficiency both in construction and manual skill, as to enable him to pursue successfully the occupation of a Mechanical Engineer.

As far as practicable, the course given in the workshop will be in accordance with the plan adopted by the Stevens Institute of Mechanical Engineering at Hoboken, New Jersey. The initial step in this course is to supply each cadet with a few of the most ordinary carpenter's tools and have their different uses explained, as well as the methods of sharpening and otherwise putting them in order; after which, the tools being expressly put out of order, the beginner will undertake the work of sharpening and readjusting them. It being a matter of utmost importance for a mechanic to keep his tools in perfect order at all times, considerable attention will be given to such exercises as will aid the learner in overcoming the many difficulties he will encounter in this regard, and from time to time he will be called upon to give practical evidence of his proficiency respecting the case in question.

Without entering into details, it will suffice, for the present, to say that the course in wood working, which will be the first given, and which will probably embrace the period of one year, will be arranged in a systematic and regularly progressive manner, beginning with instruction in sharpening tools and the use of the saw and jack plane, and thence leading step by step to the higher grades of carpentry, such as house, bridge and roof framing, cabinet and pattern making. In conducting his exercises, the instructor, as aids in arranging and systematizing his work, will make use of the most approved text books bearing on the subject, among which will be Tredgold's Carpentry, Shelly on Workshop Appliances and Holly on Saw Filing. An important feature connected with the course, will be the instruction in wood turning. The lathes will be run by steam power and will contribute vastly towards imparting that easy and free motion to the hand, so necessary to the accomplished mechanic. Wood turning in its variety of forms is not only a beautiful art, but to many it is a source of great interest and amusement.

In continuation of this brief sketch, which is scarcely more than a synopsis of the contemplated course in practical mechanics, it will be well to mention, that a liberal amount of theoretical training on subjects relating to Architecture and Mechanics will be given, embracing also Natural Philosophy, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Descriptive Geometry, Shades and Shadows and one or more of the modern languages, which will be taught by the Professors in these branches. Special attention will be given to Architectural and Mechanical Drawing, these being the ground-work of the science of Engineering.

The course in Drawing will begin with a limited number of free hand exercises. Then will come Practical Geometry, which enables the learner to use his instruments in a neat and effective manner, besides imparting valuable knowledge as to the manner of laying out work. Problems in Projections and Descriptive Geometry coming next, the student will be prepared by successive and easy steps to take up exercises in Architectural and Mechanical Drawing which will be arranged so as to cover the most ground possible during the prescribed course.

The Mechanical Department of the University being in its infancy, the most that could be accomplished during the present term, was instruction in elementary Mechanics, Practical Geometry, Projections and Machine Drawing. We have also accomplished the erection of the shop and are fitting it up for active operations when the school reopens in October, and the preparation has so far progressed as to admit of some exercises already, which will be continued for some time, in order that the organization of a class may be perfected at once, and thus obviate any delay in beginning work in the fall. The class now consists of about sixteen members, and there is no doubt that there will be a gratifying increase as to numbers before the close of the present year. The above, Mr. President, is respectfully submitted as conveying a general idea of what has been done, and what is contemplated in reference to mechanical instruction in the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

I am respectfully yours,
J. H. RANDOLPH, JR.

Two Ways of Saying a Thing.

To those who take delight in flowers of Rhetoric, and to members of fire companies, the following extract from Lichtenberg's Code of Regulations in case of fire, will, no doubt, prove edifying:

"If a house takes fire, we must seek, above all things, to protect the right side of the house, standing on the left, and on the other hand, the left side of the house, on the right; for if we, for example, should protect the left side of the house, on the left, then the right side of the house lies to the right of the left, and consequently, as the fire lies to the right of this side, and of the right side (for we have assumed that the house is situated to the left of the fire), therefore, the right side is situated nearer to the fire than the left side, and the right side of the house might catch fire if it was not protected before it came to the left which is protected. Consequently, something might be burnt, that is not protected, and that sooner than something else would be burnt, even if it was not protected; consequently, we must let alone the latter and protect the former.

"In order to impress the thing on one's mind, we have only to note, if the house is situated to the right of the fire, then it is the left side, and if the house is to the left, it is the right side."

In plain, common sense English, protect that *side* of the threatened house which is nearest the burning dwelling.

Age of University Students.

How old should a boy be when he enters a college or University? Teachers agree that the younger a boy enters the worse he does. They, therefore, warn parents against the folly of sending children, immature and void of self-restraint, to encounter temptations which a few years later would prove no allurement at all from duty. Parents, on the other hand, in their eagerness to push their sons into the arena of life, strive to get them into college as soon as possible, regardless of the perils they encounter, because not alive to them.

At Yale College, Amherst College, the University of Tennessee and Ontario Agricultural College, they are not admitted before they attain fifteen years of age.

At Washington and Lee University and the Universities of Virginia, and of California, and the Iowa Agricultural College, sixteen years is the minimum. The Louisiana State University admits boys of fourteen. Is not this too young?

A darkey, when asked by a friend how much he was to get for sawing some wood, said he "hadn't made no bargain, but the old man had promised him ample repudiation fo' de work."

Congressman Tucker, of Virginia has effectually disproved the rumor that he was bribed to vote for sugar refiners. He voted against them.

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CANDY—Stick and fancy candies, standard and extra fine.
NUTS—Pecans, almonds, Brazil nuts, peanuts and filberts.
GREEN FRUITS—Apples, oranges, lemons, bananas.
CANNED FRUITS—Apples, peaches, pears, egg-plums, Green Gages, Muscat Grapes, Blackberries, Strawberries and Pine Apple.
DRY FRUITS—Figs, dates, prunes, raisins, currants, citron, apples and peaches.
PRESERVES—Peaches, plums, quinces, strawberries, pine apple, raspberries, blackberries, tamarinds, and Turkish roses, tin and glass.
MARMALADES—Tin and glass, assorted.
FRUIT BUTTERS—Peach, quince, apple, plum, raspberry and blackberry.
JELLIES—Standard and extra fine; glass tumblers.
JELLY—Cider apple jelly, fine goods.
APPLE SAUCE—3 pound tins.
CRANBERRIES—Best cultivated, Cape Cod.
PICKLES—C. & B. onions, Chow Chow and Piccalilli.
PICKLES..Domestic, glass and bulk.
OLIVES AND CAPERS—Choice fruit; new crop.
STUFFED OLIVES—Finest quality; French.
TRUFFLES—Small cans, choice.
BRANDY FRUITS—Peaches and cherries.
SAUCE AND CATSUPS—Worcestershire, Halford's, diamond, tomato, walnut and pepper.
OLIVE OIL—Standard and extra; pure goods.
CELERY SALT—Royal, small sifting top castors.
GELATINE—Best English.
EXTRACTS—Lemon, vanilla and ginger; standard and extra.
PLUM PUDDING—One and two pound tins.
POTTED MEATS—Ham, tongue, turkey and chicken.
PATES—De Fois Gras and Partridge.
CURRIED OYSTERS—Superior oysters in curry sauce; fine.
CANNED OYSTERS—Full weight, good quality.
CANNED MEATS..Corned and roast beef and pork sausage.
OX TONGUES..Whole tongues, finest quality; 2½ pound cans.
SARDINES..Boneless; tomato sauce.
SARDINES..In olive oil, ¼ and ½ boxes.
SARDINES..Domestic, spiced, and with mustard, ¼ boxes.
CANNED FISH..Salmon, Lobster, Crab-Meat and clams.
CANNED VEGETABLES..Asparagus, corn, peas, tomatoes and okra, okra, succotash, pumpkin, squash and mushrooms.
CANNED MILK..Eagle, Crown and Diamond.
BUTTER..Fine creamery; dairy and cooking.
CHEESE..Fancy domestic, Holland, Roquefort, Munster and Neufchatel.
MACARONI..Finest imported and domestic.
VERMICELLI..Best domestic.
CHOCOLATE..Sweet and plain, standard and fine.
COCOA..Finest London, ½ pound sealed cans.
TEA..Japan, Oolong, Eng. Breakfast, Young Hyson, Gunpowder and Mixed. Can please any taste.
COFFEE..Rio, Cordova, Java, Maracaibo and fancy Santos.
ROAST COFFEE..Good quality; whole bean.
RICE..Best new crop Louisiana.
SUGARS..Cut and powdered loaf, coffee A, light brown and brown.
BARLEY..Choice new crop; pearled.
SAGO AND TAPIOCA..Best new, pearled.
CORN STARCH..Hecker's improved, culinary.
STARCH..Best laundry; Cincinnati.
STARCH..Royal Gloss, lump.
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BLACK PEPPER..Whole and ground; choice.
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CREAM TARTAR..Pure ground crystals.
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BAKING POWDERS..Horsford's, Royal, Preston & Merrill, Gates and Sea Foam.
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MOLASSES..Reboiled Louisiana.
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FLOUR..Plant's extra, barrels and halves and at retail.
FLOUR..Fancy XXX and extra, barrels and halves.
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CORN FLOUR AND CREAM MEAL..Fancy goods.
CORN MEAL..Best the market affords
HOMINY AND GRITS..Very best to be had.
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OAT MEAL..Plain and steam cooked.
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BEANS..Medium, Marrow, Red Kidney and butter beans.
CODFISH..Finest selected boneless; 5 pound boxes and at retail.
MACKEREL..Small fat, 3s and extra 2s.
SUGAR CURED MEATS..Hams, breakfast bacon and tongues.
SHOULDERS..Dry salt and smoked.
SAUSAGE..Fine quality, lunch.
BROOMS..Hearth, clothes, and parlor.
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COAL OIL..Choicest high grades only.
BLACKING AND SHOE POLISH..Best standard makes.
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WASHING FLUID..Hurd's magical,
MATCHES..As good as can be had.
LAMP AND CANDLE WICK..All the usual sizes.
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Cigars, cigarettes, cigarette-paper, smoking and chewing tobacco, unsurpassed in general good qualities.

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