

THE NEWPORT PLAIN TALK

VOL. XII

NEWPORT, TENNESSEE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1911

(Eight Pages)

NO. 23



VALUABLE PRIZES AWARDED TO SUCCESSFUL TOMATO GROWERS

\$150.00 in Cash Prizes Awarded by Stokely Bros. & Co., to Most Successful Tomato Growers. Hall Brothers Won the First Prize. More Prizes Will Be Awarded Next Year.

With the view of stimulating more successful tomato growing for our canning factories, last Spring we offered five prizes amounting to \$150.00 to the five tomatoes growers who produced on their crops the biggest average yields per acre. Realizing that the prizes would do more harm than good, unless they were awarded to the parties who won them fairly and squarely, we have taken great pains to prevent anyone from getting one of these prizes who did not deserve it.

After the tomato crop was gathered we employed Mr. J. R. McNabb, the assistant County Surveyor, to make an accurate survey of the tomato patches of every grower who thought he stood a chance for one of the prizes. To further safeguard the fairness of the contest we required each of the successful contestants to go before a Notary Public and make oath in due form of law, that all tomatoes delivered to factory, in his name, were grown on the specific piece of land measured by the Surveyor. After taking these precautions we feel satisfied that the prizes have been awarded to the parties who deserve them.

We give below the names of the winners of the prizes.

FIRST PRIZE of \$50.00 was won by HALL BROS., (Mitchell Hall & John Hall, Jr.) who grew tomatoes for our Reidtown Factory. From 2 61-100 acres they delivered to the factory 954 bushels, making an average yield of 365 1/2 bushels per acre. They received for their entire crop \$238.50 which makes an average of \$91.38 per acre. This tomato patch was on the top of a high hill, overlooking Reidtown and was good land and was in clover last year.

SECOND PRIZE of \$40.00 was won by C. L. Thornton who grew tomatoes for our Chestnut Hill factory. From 1 54-100 acres Mr. Thornton delivered to the factory 518 1/2 bushels, making an average of 336 bushels per acre. We paid Mr. Thornton \$129.69 for his tomatoes, making an average of \$84. per acre for the land that he cultivated in tomatoes. This crop was also on a high hill and was on comparatively new land, having been cultivated only three or four years.

THIRD PRIZE of \$30.00 was won by W. R. Gray, of Chestnut Hill. Mr. Gray cultivated 1 19-100 acres in tomatoes, making a total yield of 392 bushels and an average yield of 330 bushels per acre. This entire crop brought \$98.00 making an average of \$92.50 received per acre. This crop was also on a hill top and has been cleared only a few years.

FOURTH PRIZE of \$20.00 was won by Messrs T. C. & J. C. Horton, who grew tomatoes for our Newport factory. They cultivated 1 60-100 acres, and delivered to the factory 500 1/2 bushels, making an average yield of 312 1/2 bushels per acre. They received for their entire crop \$125.14, making \$78.20 per acre. This crop was on J. H. Walker's farm which is located just beyond the Oldtown bridge. The land cultivated has been cleared only a few years and was in clover last year.

FIFTH PRIZE of \$10.00 was

won by Conway Sisters, (Misses Sallie & Anna Conway) who grew tomatoes for our Reidtown factory. On 79-100 of an acre 310 bushels were raised, bringing \$77.50. This patch was on the Dandridge road about 200 yards beyond Reed's Store. The land is rather light and sandy but was covered with stable manure. When the prizes were offered it was announced that any patch with less than an acre would be counted as an acre. If these young ladies had had a full acre in cultivation and it had yielded according to what they had in, they would have made 392 1/2 bushels, and would have gotten the first prize instead of the fifth. There may be some things that women cannot do as well as men but it has been demonstrated that they can raise tomatoes just as successfully as men.

The tomato growers who won prizes cultivated altogether 7 1/2 acres in tomatoes, and made 2675 bushels, an average yield of 346 bushels per acre. For these tomatoes they received \$669.00, an average of \$86.50 per acre.

We are very much pleased with the interest shown during the past season in the growing of tomatoes, and the bulk of the growers made satisfactory yield notwithstanding the fact that we experienced during the months of May, June, and the first part of July, perhaps, the most severe drought that has visited this section during the past twenty years. While only five growers could win prizes, yet there were a great number of growers who made very successful crops, and some of them ran the winners of the prizes a very close race.

The efforts made the past season at more successful tomato growing have demonstrated the fact that this section of the country is well adapted to the successful growing of tomatoes. Not only has it been demon-

strated that our soil and climate are alright for tomatoes, but it has demonstrated further that our favorable soil and climate are helpless to produce good tomato crops unless we add the proper amount of labor and close attention from the time the plant beds are prepared until the crop is picked and delivered to factory.

The idea prevails that a farmer who has no river bottom land has very little chance of making a success at farming. If this idea were correct, the great majority of our farmers would be doomed to failure, as perhaps, not more than five per cent of the farms of our section are river bottom farms. This contest has demonstrated that the uplands of our section are more suited to the growing of tomatoes than the bottom lands; in fact, every one of the tomato crops that won a prize was upland, and four out of the five were on hilly land. We see no reason why every farmer of this section should not make a success farming. We are satisfied that the best plan for a farmer, whether he be large or small is to plant out a variety of crops every season. If one crop happens to be hard hit by the season, perhaps the other crops will be alright and save the day. By having several different crops a farmer is better enabled to have something to do all the time for himself, his hired help and his work stock, as crops can be selected that can be harvested at different times, the harvesting season usually being the busiest time. If there is any one key note of success for the farmer, it is we believe to arrange his crops so that he will have something to do every work day in the year, and do it. It is our ambition to be instrumental in doubling within the next ten years the value of the farm products of this section. It is going to be our purpose from year to year to try to give the farmers of this section a good market for some farm product that is not grown extensively now because we have no market for it. In addition to tomatoes, sugar corn, beans, sweet potatoes, pumpkins and all kinds of fruits grown in this section, there is no reason why we should not be canning garden peas, cabbage, cucumbers, beets and various other articles of food that can be grown successfully in this section.

For the past two or three years, we have been experimenting with the canning and growing of sugar corn. Last season we grew on our own land, together with what we had grown for us about eighty acres in sugar corn. We made an average yield of about four tons to the acre, pulled from the stalk shank and all. We are convinced that we can make a success of the

growing and canning of this article. It takes some very expensive machinery to can sugar corn successfully, and we have invested in enough of this machinery to handle from four hundred to five hundred acres of sugar corn next season. We are in a position to plant ourselves three hundred acres or more, and we would like for as many of the farmers who live within a radius of from ten to twelve miles of Newport, to try a small amount of sugar corn next season in order to see for yourselves what it will do.

We are convinced that this is going to be a very desirable and profitable crop for this section. It is a very quick crop. If planted about the first of May, it will be ready to gather about the first of August. We plant a variety of sugar corn that is all ready to gather at one time, so it is gathered out of the field clean as you go. After the ears are pulled off of the stalks, the stalks are ready to either be cut and cured like fodder or tops, or cut up and put into a silo for ensilage. The stalks all come off of the land in August and leave it ready to be ploughed for wheat, oats or rye, or if desired peas can be sown in the corn when it is laid by, and after the stalks are taken off the peas and crabgrass can be allowed to grow up for a fall hay crop. The growing of sugar corn will do away with fodder pulling, the cutting of tops, and the cutting up and shocking of field corn. All these different ways of saving roughness injures the corn crop, but with sugar corn, the corn crop is out of your way, and you can convert the stalks into feed without injury to the crop. Sugar corn is bought by canning factories by the ton, the ears being pulled with the shank left on them. The prices paid by canning factories range from six to nine dollars per ton.

As so much interest was taken in the tomato prizes this season, we have decided to give the same amount of money prizes next season. As the tomato growers with a large acreage can hardly compete in average yield with the grower who has only one or two acres, we have decided to offer one set of prizes for the biggest yields per acre on the crops that range from one to three acres, any crop with less than an acre in it being counted as one acre, and another set of prizes for crops that contain three acres or more. The first prize in each contest will be \$40.00, the second \$25.00 and the third \$10.00.

As the farmers are now almost all through gathering corn and sowing wheat and naturally are turning their attention to the planning of their next year's crops and preparing their land for these crops, we feel that now is the proper time for us to contract our tomato and corn acreage for next season. As tomatoes seem to thrive exceptionally well on new land, by making our contracts now

the farmers who want to put their tomatoes on new land will have all winter and spring in which to get their new lands cleared up and in first class shape for tomatoes. We have decided to pay next season \$9.00 per ton for sugar corn delivered at our Newport factory and 25c per bushel for tomatoes delivered either at our Newport, Chestnut Hill, Reidtown or Moore Place factories. As we have saved a fine lot of sugar corn seed we will furnish the farmers this season their seed corn free of charge. Any one who wants to grow tomatoes for either one of the factories mentioned above, or sugar corn for our Newport factory can get a contract or any desired information from either member of our firm, from our office or factory in Newport, from A. J. Bush at Chestnut Hill, from R. H. Reese at Reidtown or from J. B. Lewis at Moore Place.

We want to get all our contracts made before the first of the year and we will make contracts for the articles specified above at the prices specified until we get whatever amount of acreage we can handle at each factory. We have no desire to contract acreage with any farmer who has not suitable land and who is not in position to cultivate his land in the very best shape. As the capacity of most of our factories is limited, we will probably not be able to handle as big acreage as the farmers will want, so we hope every one who asks for a contract will cut his acreage down to an amount that he knows he has suitable land for and knows he can cultivate and harvest in good shape.—STOKELY BROS. & CO.

NO DAMAGE FOR DEATH OF DOGS

In Supreme court the following verdict was rendered, Saturday pertaining to Coker county.

Southern Railway company vs. J. D. Correll, law cause, Coker county.

This is a suit to recover damages for the killing of two dogs. The majority of the court is of the opinion that the dogs were running at large and the company was not liable for damages. The case was reversed and dismissed. Judge Neil and Green dissenting.

FREIGHT LEAVES TRACK IN EASTPORT

While West Bound freight train No 82 was coming into Eastport, Monday morning two cars left the track at the cotton mill switch and were demolished. The cars were loaded with cinders and curbing stone.

The tool car from Asheville was brought to the scene and No 86 which was due here 30 minutes after the wreck was delayed for an hour.

The wreckage cars were burned and the debris cleared away before noon, Monday.

FOURTEEN CARS OF THANKSGIVING BIRDS

Columbia, Tenn., Nov. 29.—Today finished the turkey shipping from this point for the Thanksgiving market, and up to the present there have been fourteen cars shipped from this point to the Eastern markets, all of which were dressed. The price paid to the farmers for these turkeys averaged about \$1,500 per car, or a total of \$21,000.

It is estimated that there are 40,000 turkeys still in this vicinity, and that there will be plenty for the Christmas trade.

The turkey crop in this and adjoining counties this year is the best that has raised in many years.

FUNERAL OF NEIL B. MIMS

Held With Full Knights Templar Honors.

BIG CROWD WAS PRESENT

Greenville Commandery No. 20 and Morristown Commandery No. 22 Were in Charge of the Services, the Templars Appearing in Uniform and Were Headed by a Band.

With full Knight Templar honors, the remains of Neil B. Mims who died Monday of last week, were interred in Union cemetery here, Thursday, in the presence of a large crowd. It was the largest attended funeral held in Coker county and it was the first time that the Knights Templar had ever been seen in uniform.

The services were in charge of Greenville Commandery No 20 and Morristown commandy No 22.

Those representing the Greenville commandry were H. Reeves, H. F. Shoun, J. W. Walker, S. B. LaRue, W. H. Doughty and E. A. Lancaster. Those representing the Morristown commandry were: E. M. Grant, L. C. Grubb, John Carriger, J. J. Wilkerson, Dr. H. M. Cass, Dr. W. G. Ruble, C. D. Trobaugh, Shields Carrol, R. G. Wood, M. C. Caldwell, J. F. Goodson, J. F. Smith, W. E. Howell, T. J. Hale, Rev. T. B. Russell, W. S. Murphy, H. R. Reams, John Day, D. C. Morris. The Newport Templars in uniform were John M. Jones, L. S. Allen, J. R. Jones, Dr. C. W. LaRue, Dr. R. C. Smith.

The Templars gathered at the Mims hotel shortly before 1 p. m. and the casket was carried from the parlor, where it reposed while many friends had taken a last view of the remains. The pall bearers, John Carriger, W. S. Murphy, Dr. W. G. Ruble, John M. Jones, L. S. Allen, Dr. R. C. Smith, Dr. C. W. LaRue, and J. R. Jones, headed the procession, and immediately following them came the Crouch band of Knoxville playing a dirge. The Templars followed with white plum hats and marched two abreast while the members of the family brought up the rear.

At the M. E. Church South the casket was carried to the front of the pulpit which was banked with flowers, the floral tribute of the friends of the deceased.

These flowers were a perfect setting for the somber black of the casket, whose very blackness was offset by the white plum of the deceased Knight's helmet and the shining scabbard which held his sword, which were lying on the casket.

Miss Georgia Mooney of Knoxville, Miss Nell Kidwell and Messrs Henry Alexander of Newport and Walter McCabe of Knoxville constituted a choir, with Mrs. Rhea Minnis as organist. The services were opened by a prayer by Rev. Mr. Bross, the pastor of the M. E. church, South after which there was a song by the choir.

Rev. W. L. Patton of Jefferson City, preached briefly, relating how he had just a little over nine years ago stood in a church where there was a large crowd, how there was a copious display of flowers, but instead of sadness, joy and laughter abounded.

This he said was the occasion when he said the words which united Neil B. Mims in marriage, and he had little thought that the next time he would be in a crowded church edifice with this young couple that it would be upon such a sad occasion.

After a solo by Miss Mooney, Rev. J. S. Black, also spoke briefly of the life of the deceased.

The Knight Templars here took

(Continued on Page 6)