Corn vs. Cotton—Farming vs. Cotton-planting.

W. H. Moore, in Southern Farmers' Monthly.]

I have for some time been making comparisons between the profits of farming and cotton-planting, and I will give my ideas to your readers, hoping that they may look this thing squarely in the face, and may induce some of them to change from all cotton to at least mixed farming and planting. For years the South has been told that it is suicidal to plant cotton to purchase corn, meat, mules, horses and other things needed by the planter, but all to no use; for each year the idea has been entertained by every one that every one else, save himself, would quit raising cotton, and that the price would be large and he would get rich, and last year the price was remunerative, and all went in for the last acre that could be cultivated, and ruin followed. And, so far as the general prosperity of the country is concerned, it makes no difference whether the price of cotton is eight cents or twenty cents. As every dollar goes up North to pay for what we buy. This course will bring ruin and poverty as sure as time runs.

The sun does not shine upon a land, nor never will, that became a prosperous country that depended entirely on the plow and the hoe to make money. Farming, even at best, pays but poor wages, and the fact that the farmer raises some stock and his own food is his only chance for making money. In making the comparison between corn and cotton, I shall take the river bottom of the Mississippi valley, and suppose the comparison will hold good in other sections, and will take low middling cotton as a sample, as that is the quality we make. A good crop for a good man that will put in his time well is eight bales, or 4,000 pounds, lint cotton (the average is less than 3,000, but I will take the largest crop). Low middling is worth now in New Orleans nine and one-fourth, which is eight cents net. Four thousand pounds of cotton at eight cents will be $320. Now the same labor that it required to cultivate and pick this 4,000 pounds of cotton will make 2,000 bushels of corn, worth now in New Orleans sixty-three cents per bushel by the car-load. This corn can be taken to New Orleans and put in the elevator by barges for six cents per bushel, and seven cents will more than cover the cost of shelling and selling, leaving a net profit of fifty cents per bushel, or $500, making a difference of $180 in favor of the corn. Now, if peas were planted in the corn at the last plowing they would fatten one hog to each acre, making at least $5 per acre. But I am aware that some planters will say that they rent their land and can get more net money per acre with cotton than with corn. If they will make a fair calculation of the cost of each and charge up to cotton the waste of the negro and give the corn credit for the improvement in the land, then they will find that the corn pays double the rent that cotton does.

In my vicinity planters are paying $1 per bushel for corn on a credit, payable out of the next fall crop. If cotton should sell for seven cents net, it will require 14 2-7 pounds of cotton to pay for one bushel of corn. If a man can exchange his 2,000 bushels of corn for cotton at these figures, he will get 14,570 pounds of cotton for his crop of corn, or about thirty-six bales of cotton; in other words, we send thirty-six bales of cotton up North to pay for the corn that one man can make. Is there any wonder that we are as poor as a church mouse, and Bill Arp is about right when he says, "I am afeered we are a nation of fools."

There has long been an impression up North, and even in the South, that we can't raise stock to profit—that we have no grass—can't feed stock—that the flies are too bad—that we have too many diseases; while the fact is, we have more and better grasses than the North has. We can raise hogs, cattle, sheep, mules and horses for one-half the cost that it requires up North. And to fatten the stock for market, it can be done with peas even on the poor land of Georgia for less money than it can be done in the North, and while we are raising stock we are improving our lands instead of wearing them out.

I am well aware there is a strange fascination in planting cotton. We see in the spring that $40 a bale, and ten bales of cotton to the hand, but from some cause we can't see the expense attending the making of the crop.

A few days since I saw an article in an Iowa paper telling of the sale of seventy-five hogs by one man, all of his own raising and fattening, for $987, or about three times as much as can be made by one man cultivating cotton. I see also an item in the New Orleans Times of a planter who fatened 600 head of hogs, making 90,000 pounds of pork, which he sold for $4,500, nearly the whole of which was net profit. Had he made this into bacon, it would be worth now $6,000, which is a nice income.

Brother planters, there is an easier and better way to make money than by planting cotton to buy meat and bread.

Men Who Make Journalists.

It has been remarked that very few men who get into journalism start out with such intention. They drift in accidentally, are prompted as they develop capacity. Money, wealthy parents and influence are of no sort of service in getting a young man a place on a newspaper. There is no business that is so entirely independent of all these considerations as this. A wealthy father can easily get his son a location to read law or medicine, or push him forward in almost any rank in life he may select; but he is utterly powerless to do anything for him in a journalistic way. To be sure he may buy a newspaper, and set him up in that way, but unless there is something in him called "journalistic knack," a natural knowledge of what to write and how to write it, he will be a failure in that line, and all the money and influence of wealthy and perhaps powerful relatives will count for nothing. Some fond parents educate their sons with the special view of making journalists of them; but it is rare that we hear of these young men after a few years. Meanwhile, some youth born among the hills, having nothing more than a common school education, and the knowledge scraped up in a country printing office, will advance to the front rank in the profession. He has the journalistic knack, and forces recognition because he has it. He gets into a good position, not because he has wealthy parents to influence the proprietors of leading newspapers, but because he knows what to write and how to write it. His articles go in because they supply a demand, while perhaps the elaborate essays of a man educated on two continents are cast into the waste basket.

Men are as cold as ice to the truth; hot as fire to falsehood.

THE FARM.

Cream is lighter than milk, and is very nearly the specific gravity of water, which is reckoned at 1.000.

Lard is now used in cheese-making in place of cream to make a cheap article. It is on a par with suet for butter in the form of oleomargarine.

Statistics show that the annual consumption of eggs in the United States is about 10,600,000 barrels. The poultry marketed or consumed is estimated at 680,000,000 pounds, at $68,000,000.

Let every farmer who is not able to fence a large pasture get a few boards, build a few rods of portable fence and make a small enclosure for his hogs and move it around as circumstances require. It will make pork-raising more profitable than to keep hogs confined in pens all the time.

The most dangerous insect to farm crops is the wheat midge. Late sowing of wheat is sometimes a remedy, though this has its disadvantages. All insects found in cleaning wheat should be destroyed at once, and wheat stubbles plowed immediately will be likely to destroy all those wound up in cocoons on the ground.

Cause and Effect.—When fattening an animal for beef let the process be as quick as possible. Any stint in feeding will make the meat tough and dry. Stall-fed animals will fatten more readily than others, and younger animals require richer food than older ones. In winter fattening much depends upon the warmth of the stable. The warmer the cattle are kept the less food will be needed.

Sheep do not impoverish land. Rugged canyons and mountain slopes, at present not available for other use until better roads are built to market, may be utilized a long way in advance of the the march of improvements. Time will surely enhance the value of these possessions as surely as roads, settlements and school-houses draw nearer to them. And, in the meantime, the hardy pioneer need wait but a short while for their coming.

Castor oil is undoubtedly the best, and therefore the cheapest, for iron axles—which should always be wiped clean. A correspondent informs us that his market-wagon would run only twenty miles before requiring to be regreased, when lard was used, but with castor oil it ran sixty miles, and was good for twenty more—a big difference, and worth remembering. He further remarks that "a wheel well lubricated will turn one-half easier, and wear as long again, a gain of one hundred and fifty per cent." by the liberal use of oil.

Nutritive Matter in Hay and Corn.—The average results of experiment and theory, so to speak, make 57 pounds of Indian corn, equal to 100 pounds of hay, or 1,140 pounds of Indian corn to the ton of hay. But it must be remembered that the nutritive effects of food upon an animal are varied by many causes, and also that the comparison of foods is affected by the object sought, as fact, growth, labor, milk, &c. The above is the relative amount of nutritive matter in corn and hay, as determined by experiment and theory.

It is evident that the changed condition of our agriculture must soon compel the employment of skilled hands, and these skilled hands must be educated before they can be employed. Agricultural laborers are composed too largely of a floating, unsettled class, and this must be changed before amendment in the degree of skill can be expected. They must be composed of a class with settled and definite ends and aims, who are educated to the business as earnestly as mechanics. With such assistance agriculture will attract capital, and afford it a safe investment. Skilled labor is the immediate demand of the future in agriculture.

Good Farming.—It is one sign of a good farmer if he prizes manure. It does not require a good farmer to raise bountiful crops on a farm already rich, but the art lies in so managing the farm that it will produce good crops every year without losing in fertility. A man may make money from his farm while he is wasteful of fertilizers, but he is not a good farmer, for he is constantly running his land into debt. Good farming consists of such management as will make the farm produce the best possible results without deteriorating the soil. This can only be accomplished by a rigid economy in the making and use of manure, and a systematic rotation of crops that will be the least exhaustive to the soil.

Where sheep are kept for the double purpose of direct income in wool, mutton, etc., and the manure they make, it is important that the extra food, or that outside of what the pasture furnishes, should be chosen with care. It would be wise for the American farmer to become better acquainted with cotton-seed cake, linseed oil cake, and like concentrated foods. By feeding, and feeding liberally of such foods, the sheep not only grow rapidly, but the manure they make is rich introgenous matters and valuable fertilizing salts. The growth of animals is a means to an end, and when the most money is made from the flock, and the land enriched, the most rapidly the end is gained. The profit of sheep as fertilizers depends largely upon the kind of food that is used.

Picking Fruit.—The following suggestions in regard to picking fruit for canning are furnished by a gentleman conversant with the business: "It pays to pick your fruit carefully and in time; if in right condition one day the next will be too late to pick. Go over your trees many times. Don't try to pick all at once. If green, you lose weight. If too ripe, it is spoiled for canning. The proper condition for apricot, plum, peach and nectarine is when fully matured, but before softening. Use shallow boxes. Shakes make good boxes and are cheap. Above all, bring to the cannery, or send to the market, at the earliest possible moment after picking. It is not too late to thin out some fruit. Trees that overbear do not yield marketable fruit."

Fowls in Orchards.—Last fall, says the *Poultry World*, we visited an orchard in which fowls were kept, the owner of which told us that before the fowls were confined in it, the trees made little or no growth, and only a corresponding amount of fruit was obtained. But what a change was evident now. The grass was kept down, the weeds killed, and trees presented an appearance of thrift, which the most enthusiastic horticulturist could not but admire and envy. The growth of the trees was most vigorous, and the foliage remarkably luxuriant, the fruit was abundant, of large size, and free from worms and other imperfections. The excellence was accounted for by the proprietor, who remarked that the "hens ate all the worms and curculio in their reach, even the canker worm." He found less trouble with their roosting in trees than he expected, and that a picket fence six feet high kept them within bounds. His orchard was divided into three sections, and the fowls were changed from one to another, as the condition of the fowls or the orchard sections seemed to require.

Ensilage.—The publication of a multitude of affidavits from amateur farmers who were "wild" over the results obtained from feeding ensilage seems largely over, and now and then a ray of real truth begins to make its real worth more clear, and in many of the statements the economy was evidently forced, so that suspicion is cast over the whole subject. Very often the great gain is made apparent by figuring the value of the ensilage at actual cost of production, and then balancing against it hay and corn at market values instead of at real cost as in the case of the silo fodder. Accuracy seems wanting in too many instances, and upon the very few impartial experiments that have been instituted conviction seems to settle that there is no such great gain as claimed. In no instance have we seen any item in regard to lost fertility, for an acre of land that produces seventy-five tons (?) of corn fodder must be exhausted almost beyond any drain of a dozen grass crops that would produce twenty tons of dry food. Just what the future of the silo is to be in American agriculture is uncertain, but that it can establish itself by any unjust claims or end in other than disappointment unless accuracy can be maintained is doubtful, and, if success does follow, it is not the base upon which our agricultural prosperity must be built upon, but in any event can only become a part of many successful industries.—*Cleveland Herald.*

SCRAPS OF SCIENCE.

Mr. Brami has made a number of experiments on animals with pure hydrocianic acid, and reports that the flesh of those killed with it remained unaffected by decomposition about a month. He found also that in separating the acid from the tissues by distillation that it was more readily accomplished in cases of herbivorous than of carnivorous animals.

In a letter to the *Lancet*, Dr. A. Paggi records the following observation: He states that in Paris he saw a case in which, under the inhalation of chloroform, the heart ceased to beat, and artificial respiration for ten minutes failed to restore circulation, when Dr. Labbe dipped a large cloth in boiling water and applied it to the region of the heart, with the result of immediately restoring the action of that organ.

A Frenchman has devised a method of converting iron into steel and at the same time producing illuminating gas. The iron is placed in a retort with charcoal or coke in layers, and is heated to 1,650 degrees Fahrenheit. Fatty matters are then injected, and as soon as decomposition has taken place a jet of dry steam is passed over the incandescent mass. The iron is thus changed into steel, while carburetted hydrogen is given off from the retort.

The lead used in sounding from a vessel usually weighs about fourteen pounds, but in deep-sea soundings a weight of not less than 150 pounds is frequently employed. Wire has been largely used for a line, as it makes less friction in sinking through the water. With hemp rope a sinker of 300 weight is sometimes twenty minutes in reaching the bottom in 1,500 fathoms of water, so great is the friction of the line.

Professor Ira Remsen, of John Hopkins University, has been investigating the question whether or not cast-iron stoves allow deleterious gases to escape, and the result vindicates the stoves. The professor finds that carbonic oxide, the gas generally thought to be emitted, does not pass through red-hot cast-iron even if it is not more than an eighth of an inch thick; and he says, moreover, that after careful examination he did not find, in any instance, hurtful gas given out by a well-made furnace.

Mr. Maxim, inventor of one of the electric lights, ridicules the idea that there is danger to either life or property from the use of that light, and says he is ready at any time to take the shock from any number of the largest machines. While lightning will jump through two miles of air and forty feet of solid rock, he asserts that no dynamo machine used for the electric light in this country will make a current of sufficient strength to jump through the one-hundreth part of an inch of either air or stone.

G. H. Darwin has been trying to estimate the stresses caused in the interior of the earth by the weight of continents and mountains, and concludes that either the materials of the earth at 1,000 miles from the surface have about the strength of granite or that they have a much greater strength nearer to the surface. He confirms Sir William Thomson's theory that the earth must be solid nearly throughout its whole mass, and he attributes the lava of volcanoes to the melting of solid rock, which exist at high temperatures, at points where the pressure is diminished, or to the existence of comparatively small vesicles of molten rock.

A Fine Meteorite from Alaska.

About eight months ago, John Muir, celebrated as a traveler and a *litterateur*, noticed in the possession of some Alaska Indians an aerolite of rare beauty, and brought a fragment of it to the State Mining Bureau of California. This specimen was examined and tested by subjection to the etching process. The application of acids revealed upon its face the exquisite lines of crystallization which characterizes true meteoric iron. The body was seen to fall, a mass of flame, by the father of one of the oldest Indians in Chilcat, over a hundred years ago, and was afterward sought out and carried to his hut in triumph. Through the co-operation of the Northwestern Trading Company, the Mining Bureau succeeded in conducting negotiations for its purchase, and, for a consideration which seems meager as Esau's mess of pottage in the eyes of scientists, the State of California acquired clear title to the meteor, and it has arrived in San Francisco. The aerolite is exceedingly irregular in shape; and the projecting points are as bright as if they had been burnished. A succession of nut-shaped hollows, which cover almost the entire surface, and give it a curious aspect, and its fantastic contour looks almost as if it had been molded by some unknown power into the shape of the head of a strange beast. It weighs a hundred pounds or upwaad, and has been christened, in honor of the locality from which it was procured, "Chilcat Meteor."—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

In the Philadelphia *Medical Times* a case was reported of a young man whose mother and five sisters had died of consumption and who had himself escaped a similar fate, *probably* because he "has lived for the past seven years in apartments well stocked with thrifty plants."

A young lad of Providence hanged himself after reading a dime novel. What would he have done after reading a Chicago paper.—*Boston Post.*

The man who eats oleomargarine gets fat. There is no doubt about the fat part.

A man in Dresden has discovered a new lubricant for shafts, which he claims is superior to the best oil. It is made by mixing the whites of eggs with the finest graphite powder, until of the form of dough. The mixture is then boiled in water until the whole is coagulated, when it is reduced to powder.

The Louisville *Commercial* cites the case of Capt. Chas. N. Corri, of that city, who was cured by St. Jacobs Oil, after suffering for years with rheumatism.—*York (Neb.) Republican.*

A simple trap for moles consists of a glass or stoneware jar sunk into the ground under the mole-runs. The moles, while running along, fall into the jar, and the vertical slippery sides of the jar prevent their getting out again. Field mice are also frequently caught in these traps, which leads to the suspicion that they are the authors of much of the mischief attributed to moles, whose burrows form convenient avenues for the intruders.

The Philadelphia *Easy Hour* mentions Mr. J. A. Walton, of 1245 N. Twelfth street, that city, as an enthusiastic indorser of St. Jacobs Oil for the relief and cure of diseases of horses.

If you want to enjoy a cool, shady, breezy, cosy, sociable, delight ul summer rest, go to Bailey Springs, Ala. They have a perfect crowd of the nicest sort of people there, and are enjoying themselves hugely. The water was never better, the music is delightful, the fare is unexceptionable, the attendance first-class, and indeed we may truthfully say that Bailey is booming. It is a good thing for both guests and proprietors that the public has decided the connundrum, "where can I get the most benefit and pleasure at the least expense and trouble," in favor of Bailey Springs. Cases of dropsy, scrolula, dyspepsia, debility and diseases of the kidneys, bladder and skin, that have defied the doctors and resisted all other medical springs, are getting well there every week so easily and quickly that the invalids almost come to the conclusion there never was much the matter with them. If you are so unfortunate as to be interested in such matters, drop a postal card to Ellis & Co., and ask for a circular. Then write to the parties whose names are signed to the certificate, and if there is any humbug about it, you'll soon find it out.

Spotted Tail, the famous Sioux chief who was recently killed by Crow Dog, was known and respected as a "good Indian" and the white man's friend. In this respect he was unlike the murderous Sitting Bull, now in the custody of the military authorities in Dakota, who is essentially a "bad Indian" and hates the white man.

In April Last,

twenty-four members of Arlington's minstrels were taking Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure. It made them happy.

Fast Horses.

Since Lady Suffolk trotted a mile in 2:26¼, and Flora Temple in 2:19¾, astonishing reductions in time have been made, the official record of horses that have gone below the time which made Dexter famous being as follows:

2:19¾, Maud S.	2:16¾, Lucille Goddust.
2:17¼, St. Julien.	2:16¾, American Girl and Derby.
2:19¾, Harris.	
2:14, Goldsmith Maid.	2:16¾, Occident.
2:14¾, Hopeful.	2:17, Glosser.
2:15, Lulu.	2:17¼, Dexter.
2:15¾, Smuggler.	

Is it Possible

that a remedy made of such common, simple plants as Hops, Buchu, Mandrake, Dandelion, etc., make so many and such marvelous and wonderful cures as Hop Bitters do? It must be, for when old and young, rich and poor, Pastor and Doctor, Lawyer and Editor, all testify to having been cured by them, we must believe and doubt no longer. See other column.—Post.

Some fellows when they try to captivate a girl "catch a ta-ta."—*Puck.* And become a ma-ta.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.* Where do you people get your da-ta?—*Boomerang.* From the boot of her pa-pa, that's what's the ma-ta.—*Oil City Derrick.*

How to get Sick.

Expose yourself day and night, eat too much without exercise; work too hard without rest; doctor all the time; take all the vile nostrums advertised; and then you will want to know

How to get Well.

Which is answered in three words—Take Hop Bitters! See other column.—Express.

It is a saying among shoemakers that when one of their trade dies he is transformed into an old gray horse. If the saying is correct we may expect that the German cavalry eventually will be mounted on gray horses almost entirely, for Germany has nearly 400,000 shoemakers, or nearly ninety to every 10,000 of her population.

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION.

These familiar words recall to the farmer and others interested, the unfortunate necessity of sometimes getting rid of Stock that is not otherwise salable on account of blemishes or imperfections. To improve upon this method, by showing how to restore your Stock to first-class condition, is the plan herewith presented. The signal benefit of the Great German Remedy to mankind very reasonably induced its application to the sufferings and ailments of the dumb creation, beginning with the Horse. People who tried it were more than surprised by its results, as attested in the speedy and permanent cure of their Stock, and they gladly announced their experience by word of mouth and by the public press, until to-day FARMERS and DEALERS, STOCKMEN AND BREEDERS, the COUNTRY OVER, are using St. JACOBS OIL with delight, satisfaction and profit. The mistake of thinking that anything is good enough for a Horse is made by others who lose their Stock by a miserable effort at economy. There are others who humanely regard the welfare of their faithful dumb creatures, and provide for their comfort with good food and shelter, and for their health by a constant supply of ST. JACOBS OIL,—the safest and speediest relief for Diseases of Horses and Stock ever discovered. Whenever there appears any evidence whatsoever of disease or injury among Animals, they should have the best possible treatment, as it never pays to defer attention to Stock. Inasmuch, then, as it is the part of common prudence to use the surest curative means in the beginning, every Stable, Farm and Stock-yard should be abundantly supplied with ST. JACOBS OIL, which is used and recommended by the best Horsemen in the country as an article which will relieve more promptly and certainly the ailments of and Injuries to Stock than any other remedy known. For Spavin, Ringbone, Wind-Gall, Flesh-Wounds and Galls of all kinds, Poll-Evil, Splint, Swellings, Tumors, Fistula, Lameness, Stiffness, Cramps of the Muscle, Acute and Chronic Founder, Mange, Corns, Whitlows, Broken Knees, Cuts, Colic, Sore Throat, Distemper, and many other Diseases, especially Foot-Rot in Sheep, ST. JACOBS OIL affords instant relief and a sure cure, and costs but FIFTY CENTS. Pamphlets containing full directions for home treatment of diseases of domestic animals, sent upon application, by

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Can any body tell us why a woman, emerging from a crowded car, always makes believe she is going to get out at one side of the platform, until two or three men have jumped off in the mud, and then steps off at the other side? She always does it; and we want to know the reason why.

Henceforth the telegraph offices of France are to record in detail all thunder-storms which may be observed.

Thousands testify to the curative properties of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in all female complaints.

A New York girl has a case in which she displays rings received from her captives in matrimonial engagements. Sort of war hoops, as it were.

Headache, bilious attacks, dizziness, and loss of appetite, are cured by Kidney-Wort.

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Indigestion, dyspepsia, nervous prostration and all forms of general debility relieved by taking Mensman's Peptonized Beef Tonic, the only preparation of beef containing its entire nutritious properties. It contains blood-making, force-generating and life-sustaining properties; is invaluable in all enfeebled conditions, whether the result of exhaustion, nervous prostration, overwork, or acute disease, particularly if resulting from pulmonary complaints. Caswell, Hazard & Co., proprietors, New York.

RESCUED FROM DEATH.

William J. Coughlin, of Somerville, Mass., says: "In the fall of 1876 I was taken with a severe cold on the lungs, followed by a severe cough. I lost my appetite and flesh, and was confined to my bed. In 1877 I was admitted to the hospital. The doctors said I had a hole in my lung as big as a half dollar. At one time a report went around that I was dead. I gave up hope, but a friend told me of DR. WILLIAM HALL'S BALSAM FOR THE LUNGS. I got a bottle, when, to my surprise, I commenced to feel better, and to-day I feel better than for three years past. I write this hoping every one afflicted with diseased lungs will take DR. WILLIAM HALL'S BALSAM, and be convinced that CONSUMPTION CAN BE CURED. I can positively say it has done more good than all the other medicines I have taken since my sickness."

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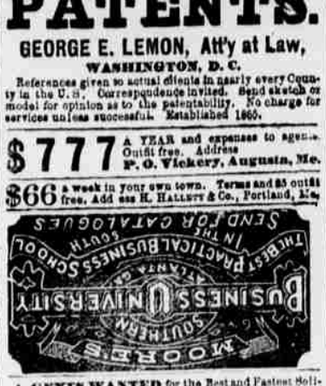

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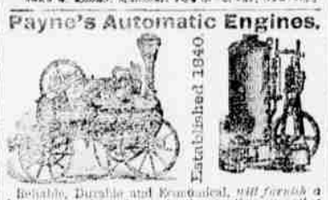

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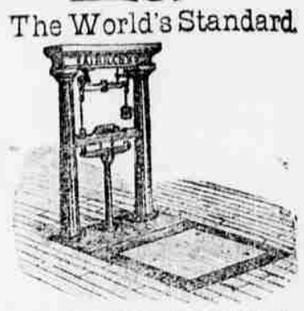

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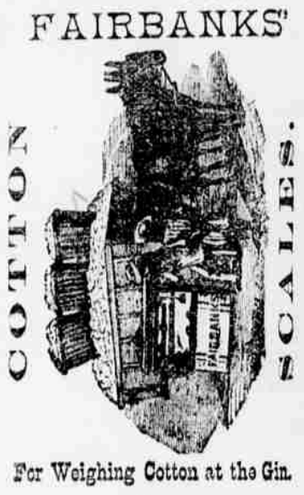

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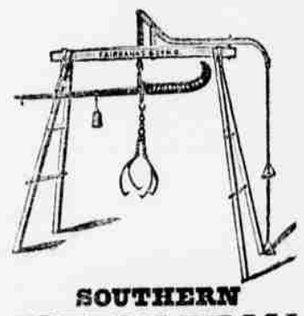

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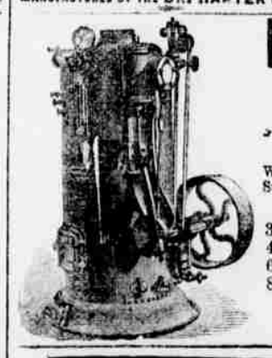

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