

PROCEEDINGS OF THE Jute State Convention.

In response to a call issued by Hon. E. G. Wall, Commissioner of Immigration and Agriculture, for a Convention of all interested in the culture of Jute, to assemble at Jackson on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1883, the Convention was called to order by Maj. E. G. Wall, upon whose motion, Gen. S. D. Lee was elected Chairman, and W. A. Pollock, Secretary.

Mr. C. Menelas, of Brookhaven, Miss., the father of Jute culture in the United States, then read for the benefit of the Convention and the people at large the following address:

JUTE.

Jute is an annual plant, cultivated principally in Bengal. It grows from 7 to 15 feet high and very straight, branching toward the top; its stem is from 1 to 2 inches in diameter, growing gradually thinner towards the top end; its bark is the fibrous substance which is very fine, and used all over the globe for innumerable commercial purposes, such as for instance, as making wrapping and writing paper, ropes, gunny cloth, gunny bagging, matting, and carpets. It is mixed with cotton, woolen and even with silk goods.

The cultivation of Jute in Bengal during the last 22 years, has attained gigantic proportions. I cannot better illustrate that fact, than by giving you the following table, showing the exports of Jute Rejections, and Bales, to Europe and America:

Table with columns: Year, Jute, Rejections, Bales, Total. Rows for years 1860-1882.

Since 1879, the crops have continued to increase at a still larger ratio. In 1882 the crops reached nearly 2,500,000 bales, and during this year it promises to reach nearly 3,000,000 bales, of 400 pounds each.

The consumption keeps pace with the production, and seems to need all that can be produced. It must be taken in consideration the proportionate increase of consumption in India, where gunny cloth, bagging, rope, etc., are manufactured in considerable quantities, both for domestic use and for export to Burmah, China, Europe, America, Colombo and Australia.

I am unable to give you exact or even approximate figures as to the money value of the manufactured article, but if I could do so my figures would amaze you. The East Indies export over 2,000,000 bales of cotton, and every bale requires from 6 to 7 yards of gunny cloth. It exports hundreds of thousands of tons of rice, sugar and salt-petre; all the sacks are made out of Jute. Beside indigo, silk, opium, shellac lacdye, and numerous other articles, all of which are covered with cloth made out of Jute.

All these facts demonstrate that the annual productive value of the Jute industry exceeds \$100,000,000 of dollars by far.

The money value of the imported raw and manufactured Jute to the United States must be over \$10,000,000 annually—an item, very large even for this great country, and which we may easily save, in a few years, if we only make an intelligent effort to raise Jute. Our wants for that article are enormous, and yearly increasing. We need it for our cotton crops, of 6,500,000 bales, this year, with prospects to reach 7,000,000 or 8,000,000 of bales the next two or three years; and every bale of cotton requires 7 yards of 2 to 2 1/2 lbs. each yard. We need it for our bread-stuffs for shipment to Europe, and for innumerable other purposes as above stated.

But the question comes now, is our soil, climate, etc., suitable to the growth of Jute, and can we compete with the cheap labor of India, where a hand is satisfied with 13 to 15 cts. a day and finds himself too; can we raise a Jute crop that will pay us?

As to our soil and climate, we could not wish for anything better, and my experiments of the last four years in raising Jute, enable me to state in the most positive manner, that Jute grows in the Southern States as luxuriantly as it does in India, if not better. This is a fact beyond a shadow of doubt, and I dare say there are many here amongst you that have seen at my plantation at Brookhaven, my last year's Jute crop of about 15 acres, and who can testify as to the correctness of my statements. Our Commissioner of Agriculture, who has seen it, will, I am sure, give you all the information you may need on the subject.

This question once settled satisfactorily, the next one arises as to whether we can compete with India's cheap la-

bor, etc. This question seems to be surrounded with serious difficulties, and if we had to depend entirely upon manual labor, those difficulties would have been a great block in our way; but, luckily, this continent is inhabited by a class of people whose inventive genius is as wonderful as its energy is remarkable and as great and diversified as the immensity of this big country. The ingenuity of our people who have solved so many problems and infused such life in all our industries and accomplished such wonderful results, is ready now to place at the disposal of the Jute industry a decorticating machine which like the cotton gin of Whitney, is destined to promote a new industry and add enormously to the immense resources of the South, and to the prosperity of its people. In another paragraph I shall give some description of that machine, which will be of interest—but let me add here, that we compete with India in raising cotton, in spite of her cheap labor, and the time may come when we shall monopolize the raising of that crop. The West began to compete with her in raising flax seed, which we used to import in considerable quantities, and two years ago we exported some to the old country. I don't consider it presumptuous to say that we shall raise our Jute crops too, and not only for our own wants, but we shall also export largely, and our crops worked more intelligently, will produce far better qualities and higher prices than the crops of India.

Samples of Jute, raised and prepared at our plantation, have been exhibited at New York and examined by one of the best experts and largest manufacturers and pronounced as excellent in every respect—length, strength and color. Such Jute would be worth the highest price paid for the best imported Jute from India.

Here is now an invoice and account sale of Jute imported from Calcutta:

Table with columns: Description, Quantity, Price. Rows for 1000 bales weighing, packing, shipping, etc.

So at that rate 31,200 R. (free on board) \$12,480 00

NEW YORK CHARGES.

Table with columns: Description, Amount. Rows for Freight 256 tons, Duty 178 tons, etc.

Grand total \$18,336 00

Equal to sell per lb 3 59 cents, total cost \$18,336 00

Free on board 12,480 00

Charges, equal to 47 1/2 per cent. free on board 5,856 00

You observe that 1000 bales weighing 400,000 pounds baled and for shipment, were sold for 30,000 rupees (1 rupee is equal to 20 English pence or 40 cents of our money) or equivalent to 3 cents per pound, and perhaps only 2 1/2 reached the producer. The total charge on the F. and B. cost from Calcutta to New York, including duty, are over 47 1/2 per cent.; to them must be added the charges and expenses from New York to the market of manufacturing the Jute into goods; almost all of which will be a saving to the Southern producer.

This illustration is conclusive as to the advantages we have over India, in competing with her in Jute raising, and the sooner we make up our minds to introduce Jute culture in the South, the better off we shall be. The prosperity and development of the South depends entirely upon her diversifying her crops, and promoting new industries. Nature seems to have been almost prodigal in her allotment to the South such resources. We have but to develop them, and the world will be amazed with our prosperity. I therefore strongly advocate the introduction of the silk culture—the vine—and the Jute, and for the culture of the latter, I beg now to offer the following information in the hope that Major Wall, Col. Dennett, and other eminent writers, will supply all that I may fail to convey. Let us remember that no crop receives less labor than that of Jute. In three months and a half, one has it from seed into fibre. I know of no other crop being safer than Jute. It stands the drought as well as it does the wet, and has no enemies, neither in worms or any kind of insects. Jute matures and brings in money much earlier than either corn or cotton.

SOIL FOR JUTE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLANTING IT.

Jute grows better on soil mixed with clay or sand, or sand combined with alluvial deposit—but except the gravelly soil, all our lands of the cotton belt, which are well drained, are suitable for the growth of East India Jute; of course the best soil produces the richest harvest.

PREPARING THE GROUND.

The land should be first deeply and closely ploughed by a double plow of 12 to 16 inches, early in the fall, so that all vegetable matter turned under, should have time to decompose, and add to the fertility of the soil; early in April, when fears of frost are passed, the land should be ploughed again; as above, harrowed carefully, so that the soil be completely pulverized. The rows should be marked and seed sown thinly with a dividing machine.

PLANTING.

Planting can be done from beginning of April, when fears of frost are passed, to the middle of June, but the early planting is the most advantageous, for the reason that the crop matures at a time when all other crops are laid by; as the plantation hands are free to save the Jute fibre, and thus bring in money much earlier than either corn or cotton. In India they prepare the ground by repeated ploughings, and pulverize the soil as for wheat crops; then they plant broad cast, and allow the Jute crops to take care of themselves, as we do wheat, oats, and such other crops. We recommend thoroughly small experiments of jute raising on the broadcast plan, but until taught by experience to the contrary, our first crops must be grown on the following plan: As soon as the ground is prepared to receive the crops, the rows should be marked two feet apart, and seed sown thinly with a dividing machine, just before, or a little after a shower; four to six pounds of seed will be enough to plant an acre of ground, and eight to ten pounds for broadcast planting. The seed comes up in from four to eight days; and until it reaches twelve to eighteen inches above ground, the plant is of slow growth and requires protection from weeds and grass, but once well started it grows rapidly and shades the ground so that nothing else can grow under it, and in three to three 1/2 months it reaches the height of from seven to fifteen feet and from 1 to three inches in diameter of the stalk above ground, according to the fertility of the soil.

HARVESTING.

In about three to three 1/2 months from the time of sowing, the plant begins to bloom, and then is the proper time to have it cut. At that stage of growth, the fibre is in its finest condition, and the gum upon it dissolves easier, leaving the fibre silky, soft, and silvery white.

PROCESS OF DECORTICATING.

The stalks cut, should first remain in the ground from one to three days, in order to allow the leaves to wilt, and drop off. Afterwards they should be handed to the mill, to pass through the machine, the working of which we cannot better illustrate than by reproducing what our esteemed friend and veteran agriculturist editor of the New Orleans Picayune describes:

"The jute stalks and branches, placed upon the apron, are passed about half their length into the machine, and then the rollers, by a reverse action, bring them back. The apron is reversed, and the other ends of the stalks are worked in the same manner, and then the fibre in the shape of ribbons, free from pith or bark, is brought back upon the apron, and taken off to be placed in water for rotting. The rotting process is merely to remove the gummy matter from the fibre, and to give it a softer feeling to the touch, and completely separate the fibres from each other. It also removes the green color and leaves it white, which is more marketable. It takes one to ten days to thoroughly complete the rotting process, and then it is in marketable shape after it is dried."

One of the principle advantages of the decorticater is the important fact that it reduces the weight of Jute, when in condition to be placed in water, about 75 per cent, hence its handling becomes more economical and easier, as only twenty-five per cent are thus to be placed in water, when after it passes through the needed fermentation, yields from eight to twelve pounds of pure marketable fibre. The bulk of Jute stalks is also reduced by the decorticater to only five per cent, and thus only so much space is needed for the rotting process, an economy which the Hindoo does not possess. The running of the machine is not more difficult than that of our cotton gins.

YIELD PER ACRE.

Various statements place the yield from 800 to 3550 pounds per acre, and although I am not inclined to refute them, I don't feel justified in encouraging planters to calculate on such a maximum. We know as a positive fact, that we can raise two, even more bales of cotton to the acre, but how many of us do it? So it is with Jute. We may come to that later on, but for a start, 1,500 or 2,000 pounds fibre per acre is an excellent yield. This at 5c. per pound will produce from \$75 to \$100 per acre, and must be considered a very good result in view of the fact that Jute is a crop that requires less work than corn, and which, in four months can be turned into money, besides being the safest crop to raise, as has been stated in another paragraph.

COST OF PRODUCTION.

This question naturally, will now be asked by the public, what is the cost of raising Jute by that process? We consider it more judicious to give a categorical answer later on, on further intelligent experiments next summer—but do not hesitate to state, that upon facts that came to our knowledge during our operations last year, we can produce Jute fibre, ready for the market at from 2 to 2 1/2c. per pound, according to the fertility of the soil and the care bestowed upon the crop. Our experiments this year with the decorticater, have been carried on in our cotton-gin house, while our principal object is to have machinery which would work the crop, there where it grows, and thus avoid all expenses of hauling the Jute to great distances at a considerable expense of money and time.

PROCESS IN USE IN INDIA.

Now as to saving the fibre by the old water rotting process, used still in India, the stalks should also be cut when in bloom and allowed to remain on the ground from two to three days in order that the leaves may drop off; afterwards they should be made into bundles of one hundred to two hundred stalks, tied with a stalk and placed in ponds or streams completely under water. The stalks should remain there from ten to twenty days. It takes that time, and often more, for the fibre to get loose from the pulp, and it must be examined from time to time, in order to be removed from water as soon as the fibre becomes soft when the stems are shaken, and

dried in the sun, and then is ready to be sent to the market.

CROP FOR SEED.

As it requires from five to six months for the seed to properly mature, and be saved before frost, it is of the greatest importance to plant the crop early, in rows three feet apart, and when six to eight inches above ground the stalks should be thinned from eight to twelve inches apart; the ground should be prepared as previously directed, and the crop be kept very clean, so as to produce large stalks and plenty of seed.

CONCLUSION.

From the preceding facts placed before this Convention, which represents the intelligent and agricultural wealth of our great State, you will see that the Jute culture and Jute machinery have passed the point of experiment, and claims from all of us active, and intelligent efforts to finally establish this new industry, which will add immensely to the resources of our State and to the welfare of our people. Out of our deliberations to-day, all the most important facts should be recorded, and placed at the disposal of the entire press of the South, so that through this medium of that generous agency, may be spread all over our land, for the benefit and information of the rich and poor alike. The press, faithful to its mission, has been very liberal in publishing information bearing upon the subject, and will continue the noble work until the desired end is reached.

But let our motto be, make haste slowly. From all parts of the South, we receive letters asking for information and instruction, where to get seed, how and when to plant a Jute crop, all evincing great disposition to plant five to one hundred acres. To all such inquiries, we think it our duty to state in answer, that as it will be impossible for the first year to supply in full the demand for machinery, all interested in Jute culture, should be satisfied this year, to raise small crops, from one to two acres—three-fourths of which for seed, and balance for the rotting process. Directions for planting a crop have already been given in another paragraph, and as to getting Jute seed, parties should apply to their respective State Commissioners of Agriculture. We expect to have some ourselves, and intend to distribute a portion to those farmers whose plantations have the necessary supply of water.

Instructive addresses were also made by W. W. Stone and Maj. E. G. Wall.

Upon motion, the Chair appointed a committee of five to draft resolutions indicating the sense of the Convention upon the subject for which it was called; said committee was named as follows: W. A. Pollock, Chairman, C. H. Smith, W. W. Stone, C. Menelas and G. H. Dixon. Upon motion Maj. E. G. Wall was added to Committee. The Convention then adjourned to meet at 4 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention met at 4 P. M., and the committee reported the following:

Resolved, 1. That we the people interested in the proposed culture of Jute, hail with gratification the opportunity which this product may afford, of the diversification of crops, and absolute divorce from the ruinous system heretofore pursued of raising cotton only.

2. From the evidence had from experimental culture in our own State, we are satisfied that Jute can be successfully grown in any portion of the State, the bottom lands bordering the Mississippi river perhaps being the best suited to its cultivation and production.

3. By the invention of Mr. T. Albee Smith, we are satisfied that the fibre can be taken from the stalk or plant, and prepared for the process of subversion in water, thus doing away with the long, tedious and expensive process by hand labor, and saving we believe 75 per cent of that labor.

4. That Maj. E. G. Wall, Commissioner of Immigration, and C. Menelas, Esq., be appointed as a committee to secure Jute seed from the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture at Washington, or failing in that, to endeavor to procure seed through the State Board of Immigration and Agriculture, so be ready for distribution by April 1st, 1883.

Hon. E. Barksdale then offered the following resolution which was adopted: Resolved, That with a view to the promotion of the cultivation of Jute, the Commissioner of Agriculture be requested to memorialize Congress to grant free of duty Jute seed and the materials used in the manufacture of machinery for the preparation of Jute.

On motion of Mr. Stone, it was Resolved, That this Convention does hereby resolve itself into an organization to be known as "The Jute Growers Association of Mississippi," that each member furnish his name to the Secretary, who shall preserve list of same; that Gen. S. D. Lee be constituted permanent President; and that when we adjourn it shall be to meet again at the call of the President.

On motion, an Executive Committee of four was appointed by the Chair as follows, to-wit: Hon. W. W. Stone, Chairman, C. Menelas, W. A. Pollock and Maj. E. G. Wall. The thanks of the Convention were tendered to Mrs. Morancy for the use of the rooms of State Librarian. The Convention then adjourned subject to call by the Chairman.

S. D. LEE, Chairman. W. A. POLLOCK, Secretary.

SHE attended a ball—danced to a late hour—became overheated—went home thinly clad, in a cold, damp night air and caught cold. Next day—headache—loss of appetite—slight fever—dry skin—pains and aches—chilly sensations—indisposition to get up, Remedy—one bottle Dromogole's English Female Bitters.

"Tough on Chills."

Cures 5 cases for 25 cents in cash or stamps. Mailed by Saline Parham, Atlanta, Ga.

BAILEY'S SALINE APERIENT is now recognized as the best and cheapest, and most pleasant cathartic in use, for the special cure of headache, constipation, heartburn, acid stomach, dyspepsia, etc. It cools and quiets, while as a sparkling summer beverage, it is delightful.

SOME merchants insure their stock and houses and neglect their children. Why not save the mother's heart and life by carrying the baby a box of DR. MORVET'S TERTINA (Teething Powders)? Other fathers do it.—For sale by Byron Lemly.

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HUNT'S REMEDY THE BEST KIDNEY AND LIVER MEDICINE NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL.

"I had suffered twenty years with severe disease of the kidney; before using Hunt's Remedy two days I was relieved, and am now well."

"My physicians thought that I was paralyzed on one side. I was terribly afflicted with rheumatism from 1862 to 1880. I was cured by Hunt's Remedy."

"My doctor pronounced my case Bright's Disease, and told me that I could live only forty-eight hours. I then took Hunt's Remedy, and was speedily cured."

"Having suffered twenty years with kidney disease, and employed various physicians without being relieved, I was then cured by Hunt's Remedy."

"I have been greatly benefited by the use of Hunt's Remedy. For diseases of the kidneys and urinary organs there is nothing superior."

"I can testify to the virtue of Hunt's Remedy in kidney diseases from actual trial, having been much benefited thereby."

"I was unable to arise from bed from an attack of kidney disease. The Doctors could only relieve me. I was finally completely cured by using Hunt's Remedy."

"I have suffered extremely with kidney disease; after using Hunt's Remedy two days, I was enabled to resume business."

"I sold in two years (33,120) thirty-three thousand and one hundred and twenty bottles of Hunt's Remedy. It is a valuable medicine for kidney diseases."

ONE TRIAL WILL CONVINCE YOU. FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS. Send for Pamphlet to Hunt's Remedy Co., Providence, R. I. Price 75 cents and \$1.25.

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Eradicates Malarial Poison, Prevents Chills & Fever, Intermittent & Bilious Fever, Cures Ague & Fever, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Nervousness, Loss of Sleep, Female & Summer Disorders.

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Contains Ginger, Peppermint, and many of the best medicinal essences known, combined with a powerful tonic and a vegetable power to make the greatest blood purifier and strengthener ever used.

It cures Indigestion, Rheumatism, Cough or disorder of the Kidneys, Stomach, Debility, or Nervous, Female & Gynecological, and all other ailments. It will cure you up from the first dose, & never returns.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM FLORESTON COLOGNE

Its lasting fragrance makes this delightful perfume popular. There is nothing like it. Instantly upon having Floreston Cologne, on every bottle signature of "Floreston & Co. N.Y." Druggists or Dealers in perfumery can supply you. 25 & 50 cts.

HOSTETTER'S CELEBRATED BITTERS

Hostetter's Stomach Bitters gives steadyness to the nerves, induces a healthy, natural flow of bile, prevents constipation, naturally stimulates the circulation, and by promoting a vigorous condition of the physical system, promotes also, that cheerful, balanced condition of all the animal powers, which is the truest indication of a well-regulated system.

Read the Testimonials: "I most earnestly entreat every female who is afflicted with the 'Biliousness' or 'Fever' or 'Fits' to try Hostetter's Bitters. It is a medicine that during a large obstetrical practice I have used with the most successful results. It is a good, safe and quick delivery."

"The name of all these, and many others, can be had by calling on any office."

"I have been suffering for many years with a nervous condition, and have found relief through the use of Hostetter's Bitters. It has cured me of the suffering of either of her former ailments, and I am now as well as ever. I can testify to the fact that during a large obstetrical practice I have used with the most successful results. It is a good, safe and quick delivery."

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convenient for Washington House, and a small family, boarding from home, or for several young men. Apply at this office. Jan. 17, '83-1y.

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NOTICE. W. P. DONNELL has bought the Books, Maps, and Accounts of STAPLETON & Co. The creditors, to save costs, will please come forward and settle. J. P. & G. L. Stapleton are authorized to collect and receipt for all monies paid in. W. P. DONNELL. THOS. HELM. B. W. GRIFFITH.

HELM & GRIFFITH, Commission Merchants.

GROCERY BROKERS, State Street, JACKSON, MISS. WILL HANDLE ALL KINDS OF FARM PRODUCTS on Commission, and promise to give the best market price. The strictest attention given to every Consignment whether large or small. Liberal Advances Made on Cotton Consignments signed to us.

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One of the greatest Comfortors to those exposed to be confined is a remedy upon which implicit confidence can be placed—one that will protect and quick delivery—one that will control pain and shorten the duration of labor. Such is "The Mother's Friend." Try it and see what it will do.

A Blessing it is to Suffering Females. This Liniment when used two or three times before confinement, produces a wonderful effect, actively little pain, and leaves the mother in a condition to recover quickly—in other words, it is a good getting up. Under its use, labor will occupy much less than the usual time, and the suffering be diminished beyond expression. The condition for which this remedy is especially adapted is that of a long and painful confinement. Those who are treated in its use are fully referred to the hundreds who have used it.

READ THE TESTIMONIALS: "I most earnestly entreat every female who is afflicted with the 'Biliousness' or 'Fever' or 'Fits' to try Hostetter's Bitters. It is a medicine that during a large obstetrical practice I have used with the most successful results. It is a good, safe and quick delivery."

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