

THE WAREHOUSE CHARGES.

BERRA, Granville Co., N. C.
January 26, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of this week a preamble and resolution as passed by Fair Port Alliance, No. 521, in regard to exorbitant charges by the different tobacco warehouses. The brethren's statement is true in regard to the per cent. I have a bill in my pocket now where it took 1/4 or 25 per cent. for selling, and I must say for the warehousemen's benefit, that they cannot afford to sell for much less than 10 or 25 per cent. and come out even in the end out of this crop of tobacco, and the brethren ought not to grumble. The crop is very sorry, and it is worth a good deal to look at it and equally as much to handle it; besides, there are a good many drummers to be paid—some at a salary of one thousand dollars—and of course we have this to pay. So, brethren, don't kick, "all's fair in war," and if you kick out from such charges, and are not willing to help pay these drummers, just drive down to the Farmers' Warehouse, run by R. F. Knott, manager, and by the Farmers' Alliance of Granville county, who will sell your tobacco for the highest market price and hardly, in any instance, charge more than the 5 per cent. asked for; pays no drummer. The farmer in the reduction of warehouse charges gets the drummer's salary.

This house has grown to be very popular, not only Alliance men stick to it, but men outside of the order (all charged alike) and to-day is the leading house in the town of Oxford, although Oxford is selling tobacco for a dozen counties and three States. This house is run under the supervision of seven directors, appointed by the Alliance, five from Granville and two from Person, who meet regularly the first Monday in each month, to look after the work, and am happy to say the work is giving entire satisfaction. With the fidelity of these directors, managers and men employed in the house, and a guarantee from the buyers to stand by us, as they have done and are still doing, how can we expect to fail? We are getting a liberal patronage from Person county and will be glad to get some fine shipments from the East and other sections, as this tobacco is in great demand on our market. Try us, brethren, and see the difference in charges. The Alliance men everywhere in reach are beginning to find out that money saved is money made; they are arousing themselves from the "death-like lethargy" and standing more and more as a "unit" to put down oppression, high charges, etc. So, brethren, the remedy is at your door for high charges.

The Farmers' Alliance of Granville, through a committee, waited on the warehousemen and asked them for a reduction of one-half their charges, with 2 1/2 per cent. added, which would have given us entire satisfaction and about 5 per cent. averaged and they refused to do so; then, for our mutual benefit and saving, we started a house of our own. So, brethren, the county has gone in advance of your resolution, have asked just about what you ask for and could accomplish nothing. This is the first and only step the tobacco farmer has ever taken for his protection; others will soon follow, having the same interest. We should act as a unit in standing together, and it will be but the morning star—a signal for a better day.

THE CITY OF DANVILLE AND THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

WHEREAS, We, the Farmers' Alliance of Caswell county, N. C., have agreed with the other Alliances of the State and nation to work for the moral and material good of the workmen of the county; and, whereas, they intend to antagonize no interest in business, but simply wish to protect themselves from combinations and frauds and to insist upon a full recognition of their rights. And in order to do this we will use every effort to secure an agent for the sale of our produce for a less per cent. than at present; and, whereas, the Business Agent of this County Alliance was instructed to see the warehousemen in Danville, Va., (which may be regarded as our natural market) and urge them to make some deduction from the charges for selling tobacco, and was informed that all the warehousemen had bound themselves in a penal bond to make no concessions; therefore

Resolved, That we greatly regret this action by our friends in Danville; that it is a recognized fact in political economy that buyers at wholesale buy at less price than those at retail; therefore those selling large quantities of any product through the same agent is entitled to and does get a reduction if the large seller insists.

2d. That we ask most respectfully of the warehousemen everywhere that in the publication of the pounds of tobacco sold on their respective floors they give so far as possible the amount of re-sales, to the end that a true statement of the crop sold on any market may be reached; then giving the farmer "a free ballot and a fair count." That other things being equal, we pledge ourselves to support with our

patronage that warehouse which will give the public the amount of such sales in pounds.

3d. That we have heard with regret some manufacturers have been branding their goods with devices as if they were authorized to use the name of the Alliance, and we warn them that we view this as a departure from that high moral and correct dealing which should characterize every manufacturer.

4th. That we do not believe this to have been corruptly done, but with out thought of any impropriety.

5. That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the leading newspapers for publication.

F. A. PIERSON,
Sec'y Caswell Alliance.

BAGGING FACTORY.

[From the Meridian (Miss.) News.]

Messrs. Patty, of Noxubee, Beeman of Scott, and Rylee, of Marshall, the committee appointed by the State Alliance for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of manufacturing a covering for cotton from other material than jute bagging, met, by invitation, the members of the Board of Trade at the Cotton Exchange Monday night.

Mr. Patty read to the meeting the following "memoranda for the establishment of a bagging factory:"

1. Corporation—To be chartered under the general laws of the State of Mississippi.

2. Object—The manufacture of bagging from low grade cotton or other material if more advantageous.

3. Capital Stock—To be five hundred thousand dollars, divided into shares of five dollars each, but operations may begin when the sum of \$50,000 have been subscribed and paid in as hereinafter provided.

4. Subscription—To be first selected County and Sub-Alliances and individual members to be paid into treasuries of the respective County Alliances subject to order, and if the sum so realized shall be inadequate, then subscriptions may be received from other sources.

5. Locality—The factory to be located at such place (all other things being equal) as may offer the greatest inducements of site or money or both, it being understood that more than one factory shall be erected if the same shall be found necessary and expedient.

6. Operations—The enterprise to be conducted upon the co-operative plan, expenses, including repairs and interest on capital, stocks and improvements, to be deducted from the gross earnings and the remainder returned to shareholders, dividends to be declared annually.

NOTE—A detailed plan upon the foregoing basis to be prepared and submitted to the County Alliances for action at meetings in October next, and if the response shall be favorable, advertisement to be made for thirty days, inviting sealed proposals for donation for sites for location, etc.

The President of the State Alliance hereafter to call a meeting of the stockholders (to be represented by one delegate from each county) to effect permanent organization and take such other organization as may be deemed advisable. In case of subscriptions outside of the Alliance such subscriptions shall be represented in said meeting in such manner as they may elect.

FIGHTING THE PLUM APHIS.

The small, brown insects infesting the leaves of the wild goose plum are the wingless form of the plum tree aphis (pruni, Kock). Individuals of this species vary in color, as also do the different stages, being sometimes partially of a green color. They infest the under side of the leaves, usually near the ends of the twigs, puncturing the former and causing them to become wrinkled and twisted. The species reproduces with astonishing rapidity, and were it not for the attacks of their natural enemies, they would soon overrun the entire tree. They are, however, destroyed by several species of lady-beetles, the larvæ of lace-winged flies, and a small green and brown maggot, which may be found among them in great numbers. Of the life-history of the species very little is known.

The most effective remedy is to spray the infested trees with kerosene emulsion, which is made by mixing two parts of kerosene with one part of milk and agitating the mixture until it forms a butter-like substance, which is further diluted with water until the mixture contains about 5 per cent. of kerosene. Another method is to dissolve half a pound of soap in one gallon of hot water and substitute the mixture for milk; or a third formula is to substitute eggs for milk, using the eggs at the rate of eight to a gallon of kerosene, diluting to the proper strength, as in the first formula. Powdered pyrethrum, if pure and fresh, mixed one ounce to one gallon of water, and used in the form of spray, is also effective. Either of these mixtures will have a more thorough effect if the infested twigs are plunged into them and drenched. This requires more time, but it is more effective, and usually requires but one application.—F. B. Webster, Indiana Experiment Station, in Tennessee Farmer.

THE ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The President has signed the following bill:

SEC. 1. That the Department of Agriculture, established at the seat of government of the United States, shall be an executive department, to be known as the Department of Agriculture, under the supervision and control of a secretary agriculture, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice of the Senate; and section 158, of the Revised Statutes, is hereby amended to include such department, and the provisions of Title 4, of the Revised Statutes, including all amendments thereto, are hereby made applicable to said department.

SEC. 2. There shall be in said department an assistant secretary of agriculture, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall perform such duties as may be required by law or prescribed by the secretary.

SEC. 3. That the secretary of agriculture shall receive the same salary as is paid to the secretary of each of the executive departments, and the salary of the assistant secretary of agriculture shall be the same as that now paid to the first assistant secretary of the department of the interior.

SEC. 4. That all laws and parts of laws relating to the department of agriculture now in existence, as far as the same are applicable, and not in conflict with this act, and only so far, are continued in full force and effect.

So, after an agitation of the subject for many years, the Department of Agriculture has at last been elevated to an executive department under the supervision and control of a member of the President's Cabinet, and Commissioner Colman has already been promoted by President Cleveland, and his appointment confirmed by the Senate, as the first Secretary of Agriculture.

BIRDS AND BUGS.

In *Farm and Fireside*, January 15th, 1889, Mr. D. B. Wier writes about birds and white grubs, and states that in an observation of thirty years, he has known of but one instance where a truly injurious insect was being fed upon by a bird. I don't think that Mr. W. has ever lived where our beautiful and sweet-noted meadow-lark makes its home. If he has, he certainly has not observed the method by which this bird makes its living. I cannot say as to its feeding upon the white grub, but I do know that in this climate it makes its living almost entirely upon the much-dreaded and despised cut-worm during the part of the year when said worm preys upon the farmer, and that is almost the entire year here. I have frequently noticed from fifteen to twenty of these birds at one time walking over my garden, yard or field, and turning over chips, bark and other debris to find cut-worms; and I have seen them dig holes, with their bills, from two to three inches deep, and pull out worms close by cabbage, onions or other plants. I have seen a single bird take out as many as six of these worms in less than ten minutes.

They are very useful birds to the farmer, and I do not permit any one to shoot or molest them on or about my premises. My boys never throw at or scare them. They are so tame that we can walk close by them and they will not fly up. Often I have seen flocks of from thirty to fifty fly from the woods into my garden and grove, and welcome friends they are. This bird is truly a friend and help to the farmer, and then to think that many farmers kill them! But I think this is done more through ignorance than otherwise. The meadow-lark is with us all the year, and busy from early morn until sundown, occasionally taking a rest on some stump or tree, and sounding her sweet note.—F. W. O., in *Farm and Fireside*.

POOR FARMERS.

Those who Have to Go to Town to Find Something to Do.

"As there is nothing for me to do at home, I will go down town and see what is going on," says the poor farmer. No other ever uses such language. It is a poor farmer, indeed, who cannot always find something to do at home. Such an one will never find that farming pays. He had rather sit on a dry goods box at the store, or "bottom chairs" at some hotel or saloon than remain at home and look after his business. He is naturally indolent, mentally and physically. Besides, he is mentally blind, or he would always be able to see something to be done at home, no matter what the weather may be, and he would also see that loafing and sitting around in the village could never make a successful farmer. If there is nothing to do at the barn, in the corn house or in the stable, he can generally find something to do in the house. Probably the cellar, or the stuff stored in it, demand his attention; and there is his wife, drugging from daylight until bedtime, and perhaps past the time, when she ought to be in bed. He can always do something to help her out, and she will be very grateful for a little aid, if it is nothing more than peeling a mess of

potatoes or rocking the cradle. We have no patience with the man who can find nothing to do at home. He is a failure, a miserable failure. He brings suffering to all connected with him, and everything alive around him suffers from neglect. You may visit him at his home and you will find his pig sty six inches deep in mud, with no bedding or shelter for his pigs; his roofs leaky and buildings out of repair generally. You will see his horses (the noblest animals that man has the blessed privilege of owning) shivering with cold as the cold, bleak winds of winter whistle through the large openings in the sides of their stable, which perhaps are filled up with rails are poles to keep them from coming out.

You will see his fences broken and shackled down until they are not worthy of the name. The briars and bushes have undisputed possession of the fence rows for ten feet into the fields. His crops are half cultivated; his barns comparatively empty and his fireside cheerless and desolate. He will fail and ought to fail.

The intelligent and competent farmer never goes to town unless he has business there, and when his business is done he goes home and finds something to do. Such a one will succeed, and such a one will leave the world in a better condition than he found it.—Bon Silence in Tennessee Farmer.

COMPOSTING COTTON SEED MEAL.

By B. W. Hawkins, Nona, Ga.

I have a great many inquiries as to my formula for composting, and for using cotton seed meal. If you will allow me space in your columns, I will give it to the public for all it is worth, so that all who wish can try it on a small scale. I give it as my formula. Say take 30 bushels each of stable manure and cotton seed in layers; take 100 pounds acid, 50 pounds kainit, sprinkle on stable manure and cotton seed, and so build up the heap in this way four feet high; let stand six weeks or more; apply from 30 to 60 bushels per acre, or more, according to the capacity of the soil. My formula for mixing cotton seed meal: Take 100 pounds cotton seed meal, 50 pounds acid, 50 pounds kainit, mix together, applying from 200 to 300 pounds per acre. I have made many experiments with compost and guano in many different ways, which I will give to the public some future day, as soon as my experiments are fully satisfactory to my mind.

The above named compost and home-made fertilizer, I look upon as being a good one and the most perfect made, and one that I shall settle down upon if I meet again with the same success this year as I did last year, 1888.

My experiments have been such with guano and compost that I am forced to believe that phosphoric acid and ammonia and potash must abound in equal quantities in compost heap and guano, not trusting to land too much. It has its chemicals, and will in due time tnan to food.

STARVED FRUIT TREES.

If any person were to chain an animal to a stake in the field and leave it to shift for itself until it gets thin and decrepit from loss of flesh and strength the humane society would be after him with properly deserved punishment. Yet this is precisely what thousands of farmers do with their orchards, of course barring the difference between the insensate tree and the living animal. And yet even for a tree there must be something akin to pain in the process of slow starvation—the seeking by exhausted rootlets of food that cannot be found. It takes an enormous amount of various manures to form fruit and seeds.—Tennessee Farmer.

FATTENING FOWLS.

Fowls, like hogs, should be confined to be fattened. They should be placed where they will have plenty of sunshine and fresh air and a perfectly dry and wind-proof house in which to retreat from inclement weather, and to roost in at night.

They should be given all the soft, fat-producing food, such as scalded meal, grits, etc., of a morning and through the day occasionally that they will eat, and corn at night.

If in good ordinary condition when first put up, they will take on fat for about three weeks and remain healthy, at the end of which time they are in prime condition for the table and should be killed, as they are likely to become listless and inactive, if not diseased, if kept longer confined and fed so highly.—Ez.

A majority of people, in examining the eyes of a horse turn them to the light. Very little can be told by such a view unless the eye is very defective. First look at the eye in a stable not very light. Then bring the horse out of doors, and if the pupil of the eye is much contracted it indicates good eye-sight. If the pupil is nearly the same size in dim and bright light the eye is poor and the horse is likely to go blind. The windows in a stable should be in the rear, never in front. They should be so arranged as to throw light on the eye obliquely.—Nebraska Farmer.

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Persons competing for the above premiums will be required to enter for the same at the State Fair in October next, under the rules and regulations adopted by the State Fair authorities, and must exhibit at least five stalks of cotton out of the crop competing for the Cotton Premiums. Those competing for the Corn Premiums must exhibit one bushel in the ear; and those competing for the Tobacco Premiums must exhibit ten pounds of leaf tobacco.

The award for Tobacco will be made during the Fair by the Committee on Tobacco. The awards for the Corn and Cotton will be made by the Executive Committee, after the crop is gathered, under the rules and regulations published in the Premium List governing exhibits of Field Crops. Forms of Certificates, &c., will be furnished on application to this Company.

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W. G. UPCHURCH,

President Raleigh Oil Mill and Fertilizer Company.

Raleigh, N. C., February 17, 1889.

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