

A SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

What Industry, Pluck, Perseverance and Brains Will Do.

A correspondent of the Raleigh News-Observer, writing about some successful farmers in the "Dog Swamp" section of Greene county, gives the following sketch of a remarkable man:

"Mr. John Sylvant is a farmer. He is 53 years old. He settled in this vicinity in 1858, having first bought eighty-three acres of land on a credit, for which he paid \$16 per acre. The war breaking out soon afterwards, he went into the army and remained until its close. He then returned home to work, and commenced buying land until now he has 500 acres of land, of which 400 acres are cleared. The original cost of the land was \$9,000, or \$18 per acre. He erected upon his land a nice, comfortable dwelling house with four rooms in the main building, with kitchen, dining room and pantry in the wing, at a cost of \$3,000, and thirteen tenant houses at an aggregate cost of \$4,500. Four of the tenant houses have fire rooms with two brick chimneys, plastered inside and painted white, costing \$1,000 each. His gin house, engines and fixtures cost \$1,500, and his stables and barns \$1,000. So it will be seen that he has added by way of improvements in building alone (to say nothing of the enhanced value of his land by ditching, clearing and manuring) \$10,000 more than he gave in the first instalment for the land. He has cleared over one-third of the land that is now cultivated. He plants 225 acres in cotton, 100 in oats, 75 acres in corn. In 1884 he made 154 bales of cotton, averaging 470 pounds, making a total of 72,380 pounds, or 321 pounds of lint cotton per acre. He sold his crop for ten cents, making \$7,238. He gives half of this for cultivating the crop, which leaves \$3,619 net profit, or a little over 40 cents per acre, or about 20 per cent on the first cost and the present improvements added. Or to take another view of the matter his plantation pays him a dividend of 6 per cent on \$60,000 valuation, making his land at present worth \$120 per acre. His method of manuring is by composting 100 loads of muck or woods mould with 50 bushels of manure and 15 or 20 bushels of cotton seed per acre. He breaks up his land deep with a one-horse plow and puts in his manure and beds on it and plants and cultivates in the usual way. He runs ten plows and plants 225 acres in cotton, 10 in oats and 75 in corn to one plow. It will be seen that the greater part of his provision crop is oats. He considers corn as too expensive a crop to feed stock upon, hence he raises oats and feeds his stock on them from the time he cuts in June till February or March, when he feeds on corn and fodder. It has been a notion with a great many farmers that stock could not stand work on oats alone, but he assures me that his mules do better on oats than they do on corn and fodder. He has boxes or troughs and feeds in the straw without even cutting it up. I was at his house the 11th of this month and saw his mules and they were fat and kind of contented. He has no other kind of mule but mares. He says his experience is that horse mules are not as good as those of the opposite sex. If a horse will do the same work and keep in good condition when fed on oats exclusively as when fed on corn it will be observed that it is much cheaper to thus feed him, and that the cost of farming can be reduced a great deal. Mr. Sylvant informs me that he has in oats well fed a horse longer than an acre in corn. Now here is a point worth the attention of the Southern farmer. For it is the cultivated feed crops that makes Southern farming so costly. Farmers, consider this fact and try it. You can see at a glance what can be saved. The same plowing that breaks up the land for corn will plant the oats. Then the oats require no more cultivation, while the corn will require four plowings and two hoeings, thus making the raising of corn cost about seven times more than growing oats. This is an important item in the expense of cultivating a farm, and I beg the farmers to consider it. It will certainly produce a great revolution in the present system of feeding on corn and fodder exclusively.

His method of raising his hogs is worthy of attention. He has four acres in orchard enclosed with a plank fence and divided into two lots of two acres each. In this orchard there are all kinds of fruit trees. There are plum, mulberry, peach and apple trees. The trees are so selected that his hogs have fruit from the last of May, when his plums and mulberries ripen, till the close of the fruit season. He plants a few acres in peas, which he feeds for the hogs by the last of August. The peas are kept on until the potatoes are ready, when he feeds them on them, and by the time they get through with the potatoes they are fat and require but very little corn to harden the fat. By adopting this method his meat costs him very little. Now it may surprise your readers when I tell them that this man who has accomplished so much by farming, and done it, too, since the war, under the changed order of things, when so many have failed, cannot read a letter in the book or write his name. It must not be inferred from this that he does not appreciate education and that he is not a man of refined tastes. But the reverse is true. He has a school house on his land that cost \$200—a nice and comfortable building, plastered and painted. He keeps a school all the time for his children, having had his present teacher, Miss Ida Edwards, for four years. He has around his dwelling a yard of most beautiful flowers, and the whole atmosphere is laden with the sweet perfume of his bushing rose. All of his tenant houses, thirteen in number, are located on the public road that runs on one side of his cleared land and divides it from the woodland, like a street, and in front of each are clusters of oaks, affording a grateful shade, and numberless rose bushes, emitting a fragrant odor, but unlike the flower mentioned in Gray's Elegy, "that was born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air," for there are happy tenants who after the labors of the day are over can enjoy their sweet perfume, and surrounded by such scenes of comfort (and I am almost tempted to say luxury) can with an easy and quiet conscience retire to rest and dream of their loved ones, of happiness, and of flowers.

The success of this man is indeed a phenomenon. It is a study. It opens up a big field for reflection. What are the causes of this wonderful success of

this extraordinary man? They are numerous and are well worthy of the attention of every man. I have endeavored to enumerate some of them by giving his method of farming. But the great secret of his success is that he don't drink a drop of spirituous liquors; he gives his business his close personal attention; stays at home and don't gossip and talk about his neighbors and go to town and grunt and curse the hard times. For with him all times are easy, whether cotton is eight or ten cents per pound. While he is emphatically termed a self-made man, yet he is different from a great many of that class who swell up and strut and think they are the only men since Agamemnon. But on the contrary, he is diffident, modest, and unassuming. I have written somewhat in detail about this wonderful man, who has no education and who commenced life without a cent and first went in debt for his land, but in twenty years he has a farm and improvements worth at the lowest figures \$20,000, taking into consideration simply the original cost and improvements, but which in fact pays him a dividend of 6 per cent on \$60,000 valuation. I challenge the United States to present a man under the circumstances to beat him."

NEW CIVIL SERVICE RULES.

Changes Recommended in the Interest of Old Soldiers.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Civil Service Commissioner Edgerton has returned from Indiana. It is probable that the commissioner will now proceed with the details of the draft of the new civil service rules which are in contemplation. It can be stated officially that one of the changes which the commission will recommend to the president will be the abolition of the age limit for admission to the classified service, which is now fixed at 45. It is this provision to which the southern men so much object, on the ground that it practically excludes the ex-Confederates from eligibility even for examination. There has been a very strong pressure in favor of the abrogation of this rule. But the commissioners were not willing to deprive the ex-Union soldiers of the preference that the law now gives them (which, of course, they could not do), and they were also anxious to extend the preference, so that it should include all Union soldiers and sailors who went through the war, as well as those who were honorably discharged for wounds or disability. Accordingly, Mr. Obery has prepared the rule which gives to all Union soldiers who went through the war a preference for appointment if they pass the examination at 75. The new rules that will be proposed will open the doors so that the ex-Confederates can enter the service if they shall pass the examination. But they will also give the Union soldiers a slight preference over the ex-Confederates as well as over the northern applicant who did not serve in the army.

LATE NEWS SUMMARY.

Willis Ferdinand, a prominent leader in Union county, Ark., was too intimate with the wife of Isham Jones. Declining to discontinue his visits, Jones collected his neighbors, tied Ferdinand to a tree, and was beating him to death when help arrived. Ferdinand is in a critical condition.

A special from Halifax, N. S., says that in Annapolis county, N. S., where the contest in the recent election was very close, one or more of the ballot-boxes are missing. As a result the successionist candidate, Attorney-General Longley, may be counted in.

All but forty of the laborers employed on the shaft of the New Croton aqueduct in the vicinity of Tarrytown, N. Y., have struck work because the contractors discharged a certain boss and put a Hebrew in his place.

A special dispatch from Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., says: Mrs. Geo. Workman, of this place, has been committed to jail at Lewisburg to await the result of gunshot wounds inflicted by her upon the person of a young man named Walker. Walker called at Mrs. Workman's house yesterday and knocked for admittance when the woman threw the door open and discharged a load of buckshot in Walker's face. Two of the shot entered the brain through the right eye. Walker will die.

At Newport, Ky., Sunday, James Gleason attempted to stop a street fight among some drunken ruffians, when one of them named Banner stabbed Gleason fatally.

The failure is announced of Charles H. Williams, a prominent planing-mill owner, of Tonawanda, N. Y. His liabilities are estimated at \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Michael Higgins, a young man, was placed on trial in New York Monday on a charge of killing his father on Christmas day last.

A contract was closed at Montgomery, Ala., Monday for the completion of the Birmingham and Sheffield railroad and the erection at Sheffield of a second iron furnace, with one hundred tons capacity.

Specials from Elgin, Manor and Paige, Texas, state that those places were visited Monday evening by heavy storms inflicting great damage. At Elgin a terrific thunder, rain and hail storm swept over that vicinity, deluging a portion of the town. Hail fell varying in size from a marble to a man's head, perforating iron and tin roofs like seine nets, a piece of hailstone being picked up that actually weighed seven pounds. The Methodist church was blown from its foundations and demolished. One man was struck down by a hailstone and seriously injured. At Manor the storm did indescribable damage to crops, hailstones falling as large as hens' eggs. Three churches and many other buildings were badly damaged.

Advices by the steamer Rio Janeiro, at San Francisco, state that the conference for the revision of the treaties between Japan and other powers has held four sittings. Great surprise is expressed that the United States has instructed its representative to participate with the ministers of European powers in joint deliberations, and in making a treaty in which neither the interests of Japan nor the United States will be so well protected as by independent negotiations.

ATTENTION.—Ladies, we wish to call your attention. We take pleasure in showing our stock, whether you wish to buy or not, so you can tell your neighbor what pretty goods, at low prices, you have seen at M. SUMMERFIELD & Co.'s.

THAT SECRET CIRCULAR.

The Knights of Labor Somehow Worked Up.

NEW YORK, June 21.—Apropos of the lately published secret circular, the Telegram prints the following: The latest "secret" circular issued by General Master Workman Powderly to the order of the Knights of Labor has been the subject of considerable criticism in labor circles in this city and vicinity since it appeared in print. Men prominent in labor organizations and who are competent to speak advisedly on the subject, unobscured themselves freely, and while they were opposed, for prudential reasons, to having their names appear in print, still they evinced a desire to have their opinions spread broadcast, not only to vindicate the honesty of their methods of selection of delegates, but also to allay the fears of their fellow members who were not so well informed, and to remove the feeling of distrust which the publication of the "secret" circular in question might create.

PACKING THE CONVENTION IMPOSSIBLE.

An ex-delegate to the General Assembly was shown the circular in question and asked for an expression of opinion for publication. He said in substance: "The issuance of that document so soon after the Cleveland Convention appears to me to be injudicious. Mr. Powderly has been needlessly alarmed about that 'confidential circular.' Had he stopped to think for a moment he would have seen that a plot to pack the next General Assembly could not be carried into effect. A candidate for delegate to the General Assembly must have been a member of the order for a stated period of time in good standing, and, where he comes from a District Assembly, must have served as delegate for another stated period of time before becoming eligible to the office of delegate to the General Assembly. This effectually prevents the influx of a large number of new and untried men into the General Assembly, and among the older members of the order the rivalry is so keen for the honor of being chosen as delegate that the danger of selecting unscrupulous men is reduced to a minimum."

NEW DISTRICTS TO BE FEARED.

"The only danger apparent is in the selection of delegates from the new districts. The work of organization has undoubtedly been too hasty, and proper scrutiny has not always been had into the character of candidates for admission into the order. Still, the interests of the districts are so great that I believe none but the most trustworthy men will be selected to represent the new districts at Richmond. Added to this is the fact that the new districts are less than one-fifth of the entire number of districts, while in aggregated membership they number less than one-twelfth of the entire membership of the order. You can safely say that no radical legislation will be consummated at Richmond in October."

DOUBTING ITS GENUINENESS.

An old-time delegate to the Central Labor Union, who has been active in the work of organization for years past, expressed grave doubts as to the genuineness of the "confidential circular." "I have never spoken to Mr. Powderly," said he, "and, therefore, cannot form a proper estimate of his character for clear-headedness, but I believe in this matter that he has been imposed upon. Business men are not fools, and I do not believe that any sensible man, having large business interests and employing large numbers of men, would commit himself by affixing his name to the document purporting to have been received by Mr. Powderly. It would be a terrible weapon in the hands of the order, and the general master workman could not long conceal the name of its author. I very much fear that the disease of rushing into print is growing upon the executive head of the order, and that if he does not stop crying 'wolf' will come when he least expects it."

WAS IT MANUFACTURED?

A startling theory, and one having a semblance of truth, was given utterance to by a delegate from one of the building trades to the Central Labor Union. "I honestly believe," he said, "that the 'confidential circular' was manufactured in order that the 'secret' circular might be issued. Concerning the clear-headedness of such a document, which I do not believe, no necessity existed whatever for its publication at this time. Reading between the lines, I make the assertion boldly that the so-called 'secret circular' is nothing more nor less than a shrewd campaign document issued for the purpose of securing the re-election of Mr. Powderly as general master workman. Mr. Powderly has not the backbone necessary for the position he holds, and many of the prominent men in the order are waking up to that fact. If the proper man can be found at Richmond, Mr. Powderly will have an opponent, and no one realizes the fact better than the general master workman himself."

A LEAK AT PHILADELPHIA.

In connection with the above, great stress is laid upon the fact that the publication of the circular was first made known in Philadelphia, where Secretary-Treasurer Turner has his headquarters. Members of the order say that it is singular that none but the most important circulars find their way into the public press, and that, too, before a large majority of the assemblies have been supplied, and this has awakened a suspicion in the minds of many that a leak exists in the general secretary-treasurer's office. There is every likelihood that the secret circular business will occupy a prominent part in the deliberations of the next general assembly at Richmond in October.

LEMON ELIXIR.

A Prominent Farmer Writes. ROBERT SEATON, Jones county, Ga., June 20th, 1886.—By the recommendation of Rev. C. C. Davis, I used Dr. Moxley's Lemon Elixir for indigestion, debility, and nervous prostration, having been a great sufferer for years, and tried all known remedies for these diseases, all of which failed. Five bottles of Lemon Elixir made a new man of me and restored my strength and energy so that I can attend my farm with all ease and comfort. Refer any one to me. Your friend, WM. B. EMBERTON.

From a Prominent Lady.

I have not been able in two years to walk or stand without suffering great pain. Since taking Dr. Moxley's Lemon Elixir, I can walk half a mile without the least inconvenience. Mrs. R. H. BLOODWORTH, Griffin, Ga. Sold by druggists, 50 cents and \$1.00 bottles. Prepared by H. Moxley, M. D., Atlanta, Ga. June 1st.

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