

Southern Prospects.

We often hear pleasant things about "The New South," its marvelous growth and the opportunities it holds out to judicious investors; but the Manufacturers' Record shows that this year's cotton crop will reach the unprecedented total of 7,500,000 bales, commanding prices higher than those of last year, and raised at a lower cost than any crop since the war. The corn crop is likewise the greatest ever known, approaching 550,000,000 bushels. Wheat and oats, though not in advance of 1887, show an improvement over 1888, and are estimated at 50,000,000 bushels of the former and 80,000,000 of the latter. Indeed, the increase in the value of all southern crops this year over last will range somewhere between \$125,000,000 and \$150,000,000. Meanwhile, the railroad mileage has gone on extending. More than twenty thousand miles have been built within the last ten years, during which period some \$800,000,000 have been spent in laying new roads and improving old ones. The assessed value of property shows an increase in last year alone of \$175,000,000 or more. In mining and manufacturing enterprises the most encouraging progress is shown. Since 1880 the pig iron product of the South has increased from 397,301 to more than 1,500,000 tons. Within the same period the output of coal has swelled from 4,048,571 to 23,000,000 tons; the cotton mills have more than doubled in number and nearly quadrupled in capacity, while the cotton seed oil mills have multiplied almost seven fold. The diversification of industries is the greatest thing that could have occurred in the South for her benefit; and the war, inasmuch as it forced this change upon her, may fairly be said to have been a blessing in disguise. —Washington Star.

Both Ugly and Cruel.

The American Humane Association, now in session at Louisville, passed a resolution this week requesting all kindred societies in the country to agitate for legislation which will make it a penal offense to dehorn cattle, dock the tails of horses, or shoot pigeons and other live birds from traps. So far as the docking of horses' tails is concerned, no fault is to be found with this action on the part of the Humane Association, but as much cannot be said in regard to trap-shooting and the dehorning of cattle. In every respect, except in the gratification of a miserable vanity for the sake of following a detestable fashion, the mutilation of the horse in the way which has of late come into vogue, is inexplicable.

A German philosopher once wrote a book on "The Aesthetics of the Ugly," and if he had written in the days of docking, he would assuredly have been put to extremities to find any sort of aesthetics in robbing a fine horse of one of its chief beauties, and it is only fine horses that are treated in this way. The operation itself is painful, and the cruelty of it lasts throughout the animal's entire subsequent life. Therefore it is impossible for the mutilated creature to defend itself from the torture of flies and other insects, which have full swing to make its life a burden to it. Looked at from every decent point of view, docking is a detestable practice, and ought to be done away with. —N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

Geronimo Not Wanted.

Some days ago Secretary of War Proctor wrote Gov. Fowle in regard to the proposed removal of Geronimo and his band of Indians from Mount Vernon Barracks, Ala., to Western North Carolina. To-day Gov. Fowle wrote a reply. He says that such a settlement of the Indians in North Carolina would create great dissatisfaction, particularly if their location should be in the western part of the State, on lands to be purchased from the Cherokee Indians, as proposed by the Secretary of War. These lands, he says, are not reservation lands, but were bought from the State by the Cherokees, who are now few in number, and will soon disappear, and the lands will then be settled by white people. The Governor, in conclusion, suggests to Secretary Proctor that the Indians be colonized in Vermont—certain portions of that State being now abandoned by the white population. The Governor informs the Secretary that no happier spot could be chosen for his purpose.

Virginia Republicans on Mahone.

The following report was adopted by the anti-Mahone conference before adjournment: We, Republicans from all parts of Virginia, in conference assembled, declare that William Mahone has made it impossible for the Norfolk ticket to be elected, and that he has deceived the national committee by a pretended compromise, conditions of which he has not only made no effort to carry out, but violated both in letter and spirit. He has taken from the Republican party their plan of organization, which was founded on the will of the people. He has adopted a plan of organization of his own, which is both hateful and tyrannical. He has driven from the councils of the party the ablest and most popular men in it.

He has removed the county chairman in order to pack the convention to do his will. He has tried to force the unit rule to carry delegations to the national conventions to represent him and not the people. He has refused to abide by the decisions of the national Republican party in the convention assembled. He has refused to hear our grievances and treated our overtures for peace with contempt. He has placed himself at the head of the ticket and labeled it "Republican" without the consent of the Republican masses. He has debauched the party and made loyalty a matter of merchandise. He has meddled with, and in many instances dictated, the county nominations. He has forfeited his right to the confidence of the people of Virginia. That the defeat of William Mahone is essential to the salvation of the Republican party. That it is the sense of this conference that no recommendation be made as to the course to be pursued either by the members thereof or throughout the State, who are in sympathy with us, but each voter on election day be advised to take such action as his individual judgment approves, looking to the end we all have in view.

The English and American Pension Lists.

Colossal as are the figures presented by the commissioner of pensions, they are to be multiplied six times when congress finally capitulates to the Grand Army. Even in their present rudimentary form they make the English pension list cheap and tawdry by comparison. Last year the English pension roll contained the names of 156,492 persons altogether, who drew from the treasury \$2,040,659. The Financial Reform Association of England, commenting on this exhibit, says: "John Bull will do well to notice that in these last five years of bad trade he has had to pay an army list of over 100,000 pensioners (military, naval and civil) for doing nothing; and that their drawings amounting to nearly eight millions, swallowed up the whole of the income tax laid on the national profits for last year."

The complaint is valuable as a caution to "Brother Jonathan." He has had to pay three or four army corps, each as large as the one criticised by the Financial Reform Association of England, and it is proposed that they shall be recruited to their full capacity by adding to their numbers twice six hundred thousand more.—General M. M. Trumbull in the Popular Science Monthly for October.

Washington's Duels.

Washington never fought a duel, but two duels were fought on his account. His officers were enthusiastic in his defence, and these duels were occasioned by the detraction to which he was subject. The first was when Gen. Cadwalader challenged Conway for speaking disrespectfully of the commander-in-chief, and on this occasion Conway received a severe but not fatal wound in the head. The next was when Col. Laurens challenged Gen. Lee for the same offense and wounded him in the side. Washington was the only general who was vindicated by his lieutenants in this chivalrous manner, and it illustrates their devotion. The Conway duel took place July 4, 1778, and was an effectual way of celebrating the day, for when Cadwalader's bullet hit Conway in the head it put a stop to his lying. In the Laurens duel Hamilton served as second, and being thus early subject to the law of honor it was natural that he should a few years afterwards accept Burr's challenge.—Chicago Tribune.

State Forestry and Arbor Day.

Prof. J. A. Holmes, of the State University, has written Gov. Fowle a letter, accepting the appointment of State Commissioner to the American Forestry Congress, in Philadelphia, October 16-18, and announcing his purpose to attend. Prof. Holmes stated some interesting facts in his letter. Among other things he says: "I trust that in the near future, the good people of North Carolina will come to realize that it is high time they were becoming interested in the subject of forestry. During the past few years I have travelled on foot and on horseback not less than five thousand miles through the forests of North Carolina, and everywhere from the sea coast to the mountains, I see the great need of improvement in the care of our lands and forests. There are thousands of acres in every county of this region where trees should be planted and protected; and there are in every county thousands of acres of forests, which, so far as lumber interests are concerned, are practically worthless."

In every forest I have examined I have been struck with the large number of the trees that are, for such purposes, absolutely worthless. In many cases I have not found in a forest more than one good timber tree to the acre—and these few good timber trees are fast disappearing.

How much better it would be if, on every acre of forest land, a hundred worthless trees were cut down, and a dozen or more valuable timber trees allowed to grow.

If it may be thought by some that in a State where forests cover so large a portion of its area, the subject of Forestry may well be left to take care of itself; but a more careful study shows the importance of the subject, and I am compelled to believe that in the near future North Carolina will have a sort of Forestry Congress and an Arbor Day of her own.—Raleigh Call.

Congressional Apportionment.

It is probable that the census of 1890 will show that the population of the United States is at least 65,000,000. This would give us, according to the existing rule of congressional apportionment, one representative to every 151,000 population—a house of 430 members, instead of 325 as at present, or 330 as it will be when the new States add their representation. A body of such size would be objectionable in many respects. The present house is considered too bulky for the use of safe and easy legislation; and to enlarge it by providing for 100 more members, would be to materially increase the difficulties which now have to be contended with. But experience has shown that the States are always disinclined to surrender any part of their legislative power. In each successive apportionment a struggle has ensued upon this point, and the final adjustment has been reached only by a compromise. A similar contest will take place after the coming census, with several questions intervening that have not heretofore been considered. It is very doubtful if an increase can be avoided, though it may not be very large. The tendency has been in that direction from the start, and there is no reason to suppose that it will be different in this instance.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Penitentiary Earnings.

Col. Paul F. Faison, president of the penitentiary board, has made a report of the penitentiary earnings and expenses for the three months ending August 31st, as follows:

EXPENSES.	
June	\$14,766.31
July	14,723.97
August	19,896.86
Total expenses	\$49,387.14
EARNINGS.	
June	\$15,874.58
July	13,345.52
August	18,516.00
Total	\$47,736.10
Expenses over earnings	1,651.04

In the earnings for August is included \$2,878.51, ten per cent. reserve from F. & W. R. R. not reported before as earnings.

This is an excellent showing, and demonstrates that the penitentiary is now approaching the point where it will be self-sustaining. We congratulate Gov. Fowle and the board on this satisfactory statement.—Raleigh News and Observer.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS.

Conclusions Arrived at by the Director of the New Jersey Experiment Station.

In a bulletin issued by the New Jersey experiment station on commercial fertilizers, the statement appears that "manufacturers as a rule are willing to sell to farmers at factory for cash, and it would result in profit and satisfaction to both parties if this method of dealing were generally adopted." In order that farmers may aid in bringing this about it is essential, first, to know what is wanted; second, to send orders to trustworthy manufacturers early in the season; third, let each neighborhood club together and buy in comparatively large lots for cash.

Following are additional suggestions that may assist prospective buyers: The fact that any brand reaches its guarantee in contained plant food, or that it corresponds closely in estimated value to selling price, is not evidence in itself that it is better than some other brands which do not reach its claims in this respect. In addition to these points the guarantee must be high enough to warrant the price, and the contained plant food must be the kind that is needed. Attention cannot be too often called to the fact that nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash are the elements sought for in a complete fertilizer; the amount, kind and quality of these determine its commercial and to a large degree its agricultural value. As a rule, the fertilizer which contains the greatest amount of these elements is the cheapest; for the cost of manufacture, freightage and rate of commission is the same for high grade as for low grade fertilizers, and the labor on the part of the farmer is increased as the grade of the goods decreases.

Vinegar Making in a Small Way.

Where families have but few apples, with no cider mill, they may, if they choose, still make their own vinegar by mashing the apples in a tub with a pounder. Then put the pomace into a half barrel perforated with drip holes in the bottom, and place it over another tub, as a receiver. Moisten the top with a little water occasionally, and place a follower on the pomace and press it down with stationary weights. Keep the juice in a keg, bung open, in a warm place, until the vinegar is made. By replenishing it as may be required with the juice of apples or of soured fruits and berries—in a word, with any liquid containing a small percentage of saccharine matter or alcohol—a constant supply may be maintained. Should it get too acid, dilute moderately with rain water. Pure wine vinegar may be made from soured wines and the pulp from the wine press.

For sorghum vinegar add one gallon of sorghum to five or six gallons of water, or to a barrel of the strained juice of the cane a pint of yeast and a little of the sirup. To make vinegar from New Orleans molasses add one gallon to five of water, put in a little old vinegar to sour it, or start fermentation with a little yeast. A German household vinegar is made with seven and one-half gallons soft water, two pounds of honey or brown sugar, two ounces of cream tartar and one gallon whisky. Fine honey vinegar may be made with one pound of honey to a gallon of water, thoroughly mixed. For healthfulness and for all domestic uses apple cider vinegar is decidedly the best.

Pigs That Are Overfed.

Swine are proverbially greedy, but it is the duty of the owner of the animal to control its natural habits when these are opposed to its well doing, so that the first thing to be done in feeding young pigs is to measure their feed judiciously. They should never have all they will eat. Only fattening swine should be so fed, and they would soon die from over feeding if they were not killed. When a young pig chokes at the trough, squeals and falls over in a fit, it is overfed; when it goes to the side of the stall, champs its jaws, foams at the mouth, and does nothing else than this, says Southern Farm, it has been overfed, and in both cases it is suffering from congestion of the brain, due to indigestion and disturbed circulation. It is in a state of apoplexy and will probably die anyhow, but the others may be saved by at once reducing their feed to about one-fourth of what they have been getting.

The prevalent paralysis of the hind limbs is caused by overfeeding by which the kidneys have been overtaxed and the nervous system of the lumbar region (the loins) is disturbed. Thus the power of motion of the hind legs is lost.

Seed Corn.

It is the usual rule for farmers in saving corn seed to select that most thoroughly ripened. This, says American Cultivator, is wise, because it tends to make the crop earlier, but it is not necessary to make the seed grow that the corn should be even glazed. Unripe corn, if thoroughly dried, will shrivel badly, but it will grow not only as quickly, but possibly even more so, than that which has fully matured. It is easier to select the first ears early in the season than after harvest, and by selecting very early the corn may be so thoroughly dried before cold weather that it will be impossible for cold to injure it if moisture is kept from it. The greater dryness of shrunken grains protects their vitality from being injured. Otherwise, plump, matured seed should naturally produce the best results, as it does with most grains.

Here and There.

According to one estimate, the forest fires which have been raging in Montana for the past few weeks have caused a loss of at least \$100,000 a day.

It is reported from the Florida experiment station that crimson clover promises to be profitable in that state as a winter pasture plant, as well as for dry forage and ensilage.

The rapid taking up of desirable public lands makes the throwing open to settlement of a large portion of the Sioux reservation a matter of much interest to all who are depending on free lands for homes.

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