

THE DEMOCRAT.

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GOOD COUNTY ROADS.

While our county people are bestirring themselves in the matter of improvements THE DEMOCRAT urges they do not overlook the most important matter which they can consider, viz.: the betterment of our county roads. Next to great railroad thoroughfares, no scheme can tend more, if so much, to the direct improvement of the country, as good, permanently fixed roads. There is nothing in all the economy of public improvements can equal this in direct benefit to the farmer. To make good roads throughout Buncombe will cost money, no doubt about that; but to continue the present system will certainly cost a great deal more, directly, besides depreciating the values of the farm lands. What can be done? Cannot the County Alliance call a meeting, discuss the matter fully, appoint a committee of its most intelligent members to co-operate with a committee of citizens not members of the Alliance, but who are willing to co-operate in so important a matter, let this committee seek and investigate and report, and all formulate a reasonable, practical plan to submit to our county authorities? We ask any farmer who lives five miles or more from Asheville, who has produce to haul to town, if it would not pay them better to have roads one pair of good horses or mules could pull from a ton to a ton and a half over readily, than to keep our present system, which compels them to make from three to five loads of the same quantity. Let our farmers and business men come together and try to devise some means to secure them better roads. THE DEMOCRAT is for any reasonable plan that may be devised.

THE MANUFACTURERS' RECORD

This journal, published at Baltimore, in its recent Special Bankers' Edition, in which was reviewed fully and elaborately Southern progress during the past few years, rendered a service to the South that cannot be overestimated, if fully appreciated. It was a great, almost startling, presentation of the growth and development and resources of a grand section of our Union, and for such work the Record deserves the earnest thanks of the whole country. In its last issue are letters of commendation of the enterprise of the Record and of the improvement of the South, from Vice-President Morton, Secretaries Blaine, Windom, Wana maker, Noble and Rusk, Senators Morrill, Sherman, Hawley Vest and Reagan. In its next will be letters from Congressmen and other statesmen. The Record is doing the South a great service, truly.

THE GREAT IRON CENTRE OF THE FUTURE.

Mr. N. I. Mayes, in a recent letter to the Chattanooga Tradesman, says:

"Verily the South has been wonderfully blessed by nature, and, as a matter of fact, the world is just beginning to learn about it. While the past five years have produced wonders in all departments of business, the next five will reveal far more. The entire South is just upon an era of prosperity, the like of which has never known."

"It is natural for people to

think their own section the most favored. I am not an exception to the rule. While I realize that the advantages of other sections are great, I am thoroughly convinced that Western North Carolina, East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, North Georgia and Alabama is to be in the near future the location of the great iron industry of the Union.

"The fact is patent to the world that the South now is marching on to greatness with rapid strides. It is a source of wonder even to us who are here in the midst of it."

Within a few miles of Asheville are beds of as fine magnetic ores as can be found, and THE DEMOCRAT hopes to see them utilized at an early date. The Madison county beds, owned by the company about to establish large works at Greensboro, and now about to be worked, will attract early attention of capitalists to the other beds which exist in that county and Buncombe. Let us have a good plant at Asheville.

THE DEMOCRAT.

Merchants, patrons and visitors express themselves as greatly pleased with THE DEMOCRAT, specially the interest it takes in the material resources and development of our city and entire section. A conservative policy, with an eye single to the general good and without reference to selfish interests, shall govern THE DEMOCRAT in all it suggests or approves. We are pleased, however, to receive the general and generous commendation of all the people whom we are endeavoring to serve.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

THE DEMOCRAT is pleased at all times to chronicle the establishment of industries in any part of our State. The Elizabeth City Economist recently said:

"We were shown on Friday specimens of juniper fibre for beds and mattresses which seemed to us much better adapted to the purpose than shucks. The fibre was prepared by the Buffalo Company at East Lake."

Our mountain hemlock or spruce is the equal of the juniper for such purposes, and our mountains abound with this timber. Why not such an enterprise in this section?

And what an opportunity is offered here for a paper pulp mill. With unsurpassed water power near this city, and with an inexhaustible supply of hemlock, poplar, white pine and such woods literally going to waste, what an opportunity is here offered for capitalists. THE DEMOCRAT invites attention to the subject.

Again, The Goldsboro Headlight informs us:

"The Wayne Agricultural Works has just finished a tremendous fire bell, for this city, which will favorably compare with any northern manufacture. It is cast out of the finest bell metal, and weighs nearly 1,500 pounds."

Who would have thought, a little while ago, of such work being done in the Old North State? Let all such endeavors be encouraged by our people. It is such as these which become great works, giving employment to labor and diffusing good all round.

While on this subject of Home Industries, we recur to the following taken from the Raleigh News-Observer, it being the result of an interview with Gov. Fowle just after his visit to Charlotte. The News-Observer says:

"Chatting with Gov. Fowle yesterday about his visit to Charlotte, he expressed himself as highly pleased at the cordiality and hospitality that were extended him there. He said, moreover, that Charlotte was one of the most progressive towns he had ever seen, and one matter which commended itself to his appreciation particularly was Charlotte's new cotton mills and the plan of their establishment. These factories were started on the cheap in-

stallment plan, and the arrangement is one which will allow any one, it matters not how limited his salary, to take stock. Weekly payments of twenty-five cents entitles a man to one share of one hundred dollars, and he can pay only twenty-five cents a week until the share is paid for and still enjoy the profits of the factory all along. In like manner fifty cents doubles the amount of stock, and so on up. The Governor is very enthusiastic over the plan and thinks with it as a basis another cotton factory could be started in Raleigh at once. Several parties would be doubtless willing to make weekly payments of ten dollars which would entitle them to \$4,000 of stock, others would pay 35c., 50c. and \$1. In this way \$100,000 of stock would be readily disposed of. The plan of payment is so easy that everybody could go into it. The Governor himself will take a liberal amount of stock. What does Raleigh think about it?"

We commend this plan to our Buncombe county Alliance which is endeavoring to establish a large wagon and agricultural implement factory at this place. On this plan stock enough to establish the works can be readily secured, and the work established. We have as good mechanics and machinists, as fine timbers, and as fine facilities for disposing of the goods as any point in the South. THE DEMOCRAT urges all our people to unite in such enterprises. They mean the building up of our country on a solid permanent basis. New England got her start by such efforts. Let our people not despise the day of small things.

REFORM NEEDED.

If it could be so fixed that Congressmen could not collect their salaries until adjournment, and then in proportion only for the time served at the present rate allowed, work would be done much more rapidly than now. The whole country demands tax reduction and reform, and the great business interests of the country—all interests we may say—are involved not only in the system itself, but in any changes which may be proposed; and yet Congress, its members quietly drawing their pay as wanted and not afflicted, generally, by outside business interests, will fritter away time, Republicans in discussing how not to give relief, and the Democrats in telling over again the same old story of the people's wrongs. If the Republicans are not going to do anything let them say so, and the people can know what to rely on, at least until they get a chance next fall to reverse the outrage of last election and return men who are willing to do something for the masses and not exclusively for the classes. Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee, which committee alone is allowed to frame revenue laws, gave it out, so reports a dispatch from Washington, that they will have a tariff bill ready to report early in February, two months after the meeting of Congress, and they speak of this as something for which they are to be commended. The dispatch says:

"The Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee held an informal meeting last night, and it is understood, agreed to endeavor to report a tariff bill the first week in February."

"They agreed that the Senate bill should be the basis of their action, and that their alterations in it should be made on its principles. They agreed that there should be no free coal, free iron ore or free wool provisions in the bill, nor, indeed, any provision for any free raw material of any importance, unless it should be sugar."

"The disposition is to cut the sugar duty down low or to cut it away altogether, giving the cane, beet and sorghum sugar raisers a bounty."

Existing monopolies and trusts are not only to be protected, but the whole country is to be taxed for bounties to su-

gar producers. This is certainly a sweet proposal to the overburdened masses, but just what can only be expected from the monopoly-ridden Republican party.

GET READY IN TIME.

Secretary Rusk, of the Department of Agriculture, in a recent letter to the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record upon Southern Progress, makes the following timely observations:

"The natural facilities of the South for the production of this great cotton crop, aided and directed by the intelligence which constantly seeks improvement, must assure for all time the supremacy of our Southern States as the cotton producing region of the world. The South has a climate and soil well adapted to producing all the crops necessary to provide its inhabitants with food, and the rapid increase in its production of cereals during the past few years is extremely gratifying, and so is the wonderful increase in value of life stock; and in this connection I would call your attention to the special importance of the horse, dairy and sheep interests. The great development of your manufacturing interests in the South will soon create an extraordinary demand for heavy draft horses. There is no reason why this demand should not be supplied by Southern farmers if they will prepare for it in time. In the dairy interest many sections of the South have already given evidence of most gratifying progress, and I can only say that with the early establishment in this department of a division devoted especially to the dairy, it will be my pleasure as well as my duty, to aid this development to the fullest extent possible. With reference to the sheep, I notice in this branch of live stock, and in this alone, a falling of in values between 1879 and 1889. I trust that the forthcoming decade will show a very different record, and that in the meantime, Southern farmers will give more attention than heretofore to the raising of mutton sheep, for which I am satisfied a great many sections of the South are peculiarly well adapted."

In commending all the Secretary says, THE DEMOCRAT wishes specially to emphasize what is said relative to the raising of heavy draft horses in the South. Western North Carolina is specially, almost peculiarly, adapted to stock raising, and we are pleased to say our people have made much improvement, not only in quantity but specially in quality during the past decade. There is vast room for improvement in both respects however. We wish all of our farmers could see the magnificent Norman horses recently brought to this place and now used on the Vanderbilt property. They are horses for a fact, and just such as are rapidly being wanted, not only in our own section but throughout the South. The farmers of Western Carolina ought to act promptly on the suggestion of Mr. Rusk, and "begin in time" to develop this branch of the stock business, with other branches mentioned as well. It will put money in their purses. Who will be the first to move? Is this not a live subject for Alliance action and co-operation.

The sensation in Congress last week was the introduction in the Senate by Senator Butler, of South Carolina, of a bill for the deportation of negroes into Africa. The Senator made a powerful speech in defense of his bill and declared that its passage was desired by many prominent colored men. Senator Morgan, of Alabama, is also an advocate of the bill. Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, replied to Mr. Butler, and another reply is expected from Ingalls, of Kansas.

A Gap Creek correspondent of the Lenoir Topic tells of a Mrs. Brown, who lives in Ashe county, who is eighty years old and is a remarkable woman. Mrs. Brown has been twice married. Her first husband was named Phillips, to whom she bore 22 children, all of whom are living and seven of whom are Baptist preachers.

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