

The Davie Record.

State Librarian

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Uncle Tobey's Lecture on the Meat Boycott.

Uncle Tobey, in Home and Farm.

The present boycott being organized against the high prices of meat is a subject that is shaking your Uncle Tobey from center to circumference. It presents a situation that brings up a thousand memories of the past. Our memory carries us back to prattling childhood when with wide open and wondering eyes we listened to our mothers as they read to us of the memorable event of the cow jumping over the moon. It is claimed on good authority that beef is higher now than it was on that memorable occasion; and, in view of the silence of the little dog who seems to be intently and expectantly watching an empty dish, the claims set forth about the high prices evidently have some foundation in fact.

This strike or boycott may become so general and formidable as to amount to a "restraint of trade" and seriously affect the price which the farmer is now receiving for the meat products of his farm. If it does, who knows but what the farmer may retaliate by instituting a counter strike or boycott?

Take for instance the article of pants. Nearly everybody, men, women and children, wear pants. They are an article in common use. The pants business is a great industry. There are millions of people engaged in their manufacture. These workmen, as well as the women and children, spend most of their money with the merchants of our towns and cities. If the farmers should decide to make the shirt tails longer, like people used to do in olden times, and quit buying and wearing pants, it would almost paralyze that industry. And the farmer might save enough in this way to offset the losses on meat products sold from his farm. There are many other things which the farmer could quit buying which would strengthen his position if the boycott is to be adopted as the means of settling the present condition.

But the question arises: Will the boycott prove an effective means of lowering the cost of meat. If it should do so temporarily, the farmer would go out of business as a meat producer and sell his corn and hay, which would be profitable at lower prices than he now receives for them. This would cause a greater scarcity of cattle and hogs, and hence higher prices for meat than that which prevails under present conditions. Your Uncle Tobey sees nothing to be gained by the boycott. Its receding waves will only carry the price of meat to a higher level than at present exists. Since the organized and allied packing-houses practically set the prices on the live stock they buy, as well as up on the products they sell, and are reaching out for more worlds to conquer, the boycott cannot permanently affect them. The butcher is already explaining that it is not he that is killing "Cock Robin."

As a rule, the farmer of today is quite a different man from the farmer of twenty years ago. He has not only been advancing in the knowledge of producing crops, but in selling them. He is more of a business man than he was twenty years ago. He is practically out of debt, has a bank account and is more independent. He is better equipped to stand a boycott than any other class which may array itself against him. He can produce that which he eats and wears for any length of time, and thus starve out all opposition. If he should decide to do so collectively, he could block the commerce of the world. He is slow to anger and to act, but when once started is a whirlwind in action. In passing around boycotts it will per-

haps be well enough to let the farmer alone.

It is said that the government will appoint a committee for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the increased cost of living. As your Uncle Tobey has been a student along these lines for thirty years, he may be able to throw some light upon the question.

In the first place, it will be well to review claims and the positions taken by those who have been entrusted with the affairs of the government for the past two or three decades.

In 1873 the prices of farm products were very low. The farmer was then told by those who assumed to know, the politicians and men who know all about finance, that the cause of low prices was overproduction. Your Uncle Tobey believed, as he does now, that the cause was under consumption, brought about by an artificial scarcity of money.

The panic of 1893 was the beginning of another era of low prices brought on by an artificial scarcity of money. I merely cite these well-known instances in order to call the attention of the readers of the Home and Farm to them, and with no intention on my part to bring forth a long array of facts and argument in support of my belief as above stated. I prefer to call the attention of the reader to the fact that the men who have been feeding us upon wholesome knowledge of political economy in all shapes, form or sumptuous feast in the front yard to scimpy hand-out at the back door, are now lost in the middle of a dilemma, which they themselves cannot unravel, and must appoint a committee to inquire into the high cost of living.

The men who have the confidence of enough people to elect them to official positions have told us on divers occasions that there were three things necessary to do in order to bring prosperity.

First—We must adopt the gold standard as a basis for our money.

Second—We must enact a high tariff law to protect our manufacturers from the pauper labor of Europe.

Third—We must push our export trade into European and Asiatic markets.

When the silverites contended for the free coinage of silver they set forth the claim that it would practically double the amount of money in circulation and increase price of products in the same proportion. The gold standard advocates admitted that it would do this, but that such legislation, by reducing the purchasing value of the dollar, would in effect amount to repudiation. The gold standard men won, but it was not expected that chance would do for the free silver advocates what their own efforts failed to accomplish. Newly discovered gold fields produced fabulous amounts of that metal, and new processes of production added to the amount.

This increased amount of gold, under free coinage for that metal, has had practically the same effect as the free coinage and putting in to circulation a like amount of silver, provided the latter was placed on an equality with gold by making it a legal tender.

The tariff as everybody knows, is now in working order, and is not losing a day's time. And prosperity is here. We have been doing our best to increase our export trade, even to the extent of selling foreign customers cheaper than to the domestic trade, and prosperity still remains.

Now, if all that our solons have been telling us is true, and present conditions are to be taken as evidence of their truthfulness, and we want to get back to the old simple life, where the farmer pays for all, why not demonetize half the gold, knock the tariff into

smithereens and let our foreign trade go to hell. We would then, according to the wise (?) teachings of the solons, have an old-fashioned overproduction, and the people who live in the towns and are doing the principal part of the kicking would be happy.

In conclusion your Uncle Tobey would advise that government committee to look for the fellow who has the goods on him. He will be found somewhere between the farmer and the consumer, and when he is tracked to his lair, it will be discovered that he is the man who has been given special privileges, and he is holding back from the wage-earner an equitable part of his wages, to which the present prosperous condition of the country entitles him.

Table Etiquette.

Yellow Jacket.

The Yellow Jacket has, at considerable expense, secured the following notes on table manners which it takes pleasure in presenting to its readers:

Side dishes of vegetables are not meant to be left outside. They are to be eaten like any other vegetables.

Never smear the meat with mustard or sauce of any kind. Axle grease or jannning it down the throat with the fork handle will be found to serve just as well.

Never leave the spoon in the cup after stirring coffee or tea. Watch the others at the table and when no one is looping, swipe it.

The knife should be taken by the handle only. It will be found that the blade cuts better than the handle.

Don't rest the elbow on the table. If you are tired while eating climb up into the lap of some of the other diners. They will greatly appreciate this and it will make them feel that you are sociable.

The fork should be used in mashing potatoes. It is bad form to mash them with your feet and you are liable to break the dishes.

Ladies should always be served before gentlemen. If there is not enough to go around, pretend that you have just eaten before coming in.

Ice cream should be eaten before it gets cold.

When through dinner the napkin should be left unfolded except at home. In case you have no napkin, wipe your face on the tablecloth. This is especially gratifying to the landlady.

Never use toothpicks on the table. Crawl under it.

Never talk with the mouth full. You are liable to lose some of the food, and hiss of food have been known to fly into other people's faces while eating and talking at the same time.

Do not reach after a knife, fork or spoon that has been dropped. Ask for another one, and when no one is looking, slip the one on the floor in your pocket.

Do not eat after passing a plate for another until the plate has been returned. If you are not certain when it is coming back, put on it "Return after ten days," and go out and count the stars till it gets back.

Do not twist the feet around the legs of the chair. If your legs are hollow you will not be able to eat as much as otherwise.

Never shove yourself from the table. If you find it difficult to get away, ring for the ambulance.

Never spit seeds of fruit on the plate. If you can't swallow them, slip them into the pocket of the person sitting nearest you. He will consider this a very amusing joke and reward you for it in after life.

Never take a larger mouthful than you can get into the mouth.

You can save yourself lots of trouble by not borrowing it.

Letter From Colorado.

MR. EDITOR:—If you will allow us, we will give you a few notes on weather, also on farming out in the great American desert. As for weather, we have quite a variety, except the rainy kind. On Tuesday, Feb. 15, we were dising and hauling manure. On Wednesday, snow, and by night it registered 16 below old zero. Altho work don't tarry very long on account of a little cold snap, because there are probably more cattle and sheep fed in this valley than any other of like size anywhere. From one mile south of our place the open prairie stretches for a thousand miles with but few interruptions. The herds are grazed on this land through the summer and drove into the valleys in November to be fattened on the rich fields of beet tops, beet pulp and alfalfa. After all the crops were harvested from this farm the pasture brought \$400 extra, and fed 1,500 sheep for about six weeks. The farm contains 200 acres, and the crops sold for \$9,000. Talk about threshing. They started in here about August, and haven't given it up yet. First, it is oats, wheat, melon and cucumber seed, then beans and alfalfa until spring, and then if the thresherman cares to, he can hitch to a string of plows and break land till harvest. One of our neighbors cultivates and ships about 250 acres of canteloupes every season, also, a large acreage in Florida and North Carolina. They start to picking in Florida, then go to North Carolina, and wind up here in October. Here is where most of your garden seeds are raised, especially melons. Not much use to mention about the health of this country. Uncle Sam had choice of a situation for a sanitarium for the sick boys of the navy, from Maine to the Golden Gate, but he decided on a historical spot about twenty miles from this place, old Fort Lyons. There is getting to be quite a group of Tar Heels out here. We may have a big reunion about the first of September. If so, come one and all, and we'll feed you on watermelons, beet sugar and chille con carne, and locate you on 320 acres of fine dry land guaranteed never to go wet.

J. H. SAUNDERS.

LaJunta, Colo., Feb. 17, '10.

Agents Wanted.

The Record want a live, hustling agent at Cooleemee, Smith Grove, Farmington, Cana, Calahall, Fork Church and Harmony, to take subscriptions to The Record, the paper that gives the most county news at half the price of other papers. A liberal commission will be given. Write us for terms and sample copies.

News From Smith Grove.

It seems that parties are the order of the day around here, and the young boys and girls don't get to sleep much. That's right, keep the good work going on while you are young, for when you get old you will sit back and sing "by, o' by, and don't you cry."

Farmers are getting uneasy for fear they can't plow any more soon, but just take it easy. The good Lord knoweth all things best, and when the March winds blow over our lands, and the spring sun shines we can turn our soil, and listen to the blue bird and the mocking bird sing their sweet songs, and then we will forget all about the cold wintry snowy days and muddy roads.

Messrs. J. K. Crofts and C. G. Call made a business trip to Winston recently.

J. F. Owen took a pleasure trip to Fredell and Yadkin county recently, and reports a fine time all but bad roads.

Mrs. James Taylor is building a new addition to her barn.

Mr. M. H. Taylor has purchased

a fine top buggy and a fine bay horse. Don't know what it means. Guess it is to haul some of our pretty girls around. Say, girls, keep your eyes open for the new buggy, it's too muddy to walk.

Mr. Frank Smith has returned to his home in Indiana, after a visit with his friends in and around Smith Grove. Glad to have the old gentleman come to see us, and sorry to see him leave. Wish him a safe trip to his western home.

There have been two fine looking young girls by the name of Kurfrees, visiting in our section, and since their departure, several of our boys are wearing faces a mile in length.

Mr. W. W. Allen has moved his family back to Smith Grove. Glad to see Mr. Allen return to his old home.

Mr. William Walker, of Smith Grove, who has been very ill for some time, is improving, we are glad to know.

Mrs. Stella Williams and son, visited Mrs. Pearl Owen one day last week.

Messrs. J. F. Sheek and J. F. Owen made a business trip to Mocksville Thursday evening, and it seemed as though it were raining when they passed through our burg on their way home that night. Did you get wet?

We are sorry to say that Mr. C. W. Kimbrough lost a fine black horse Tuesday night.

Mr. Joe Howard had the misfortune to get one of his hog's back broken Tuesday night and had to kill it Wednesday morning. Sorry to hear of the misfortune, but hog is good to eat, so eat him, Joe.

Mr. Charlie Williams and family have all been very sick with colds. Glad to know he is better, but sorry his wife is not much better. Hope for them a speedy recovery.

If this escapes the waste basket, I will write again.

SILLY BILL.

Bixby Items.

We have been having some bad weather, and the roads are nearly impassable. Can't our people get a spirit of progress about them and vote for a better road system? We have the law, why not vote for, and put it in operation.

Mr. J. M. Hendrix died of pneumonia, and was buried at the family burying ground last Tuesday. The deceased was the mother of W. A. and A. P. Hendrix. She leaves a husband and two sons to mourn her loss. A noble woman is gone. We extend sympathy to the bereaved family.

Mr. Rad Burton and Miss Mattie Waller were married at Bixby Feb. 20th, F. M. Williams, Esq., officiating. We join with their many friends in wishing them a long and happy life.

Mr. Henry Charles, of Davidson county, was in town last Saturday on business.

The health of our people has improved, but some are still suffering with the grip.

Mrs. N. W. Potts has been seriously sick, but at this writing is slowly improving.

Mr. G. S. Robertson has moved his family back to Bixby for the purpose of working in the box factory.

The suburbs of Bixby has another store run by Mr. Phelps Corntzer, at Baltimore.

Mr. Lippard Foster, who was shot by his brother Tom, while bird hunting, has about recovered.

Mr. Bill Smith, of Williamson, W. Va., is visiting his parents, but will return about the first of March.

A SUBSCRIBER.

A Contrary Couple.

An old couple had lived together for forty years. The man said he and his wife never agreed but once in all that time, and that was when the house took fire, both agreed that the best thing to do was to get out as soon as possible.—Greenville Sun.

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