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MONKEYS PICK COTTON.

Great Discovery Made by a Mississippi Planter.

MONKEYS EXCEL NEGROES

In Picking Cotton at Only One-Third Of The Expense. A Mississippi Planter Has 300 Trained Monkeys at Work On His Plantation.

In the January number of the Cotton Planters' Journal, a most interesting article entitled "Monkeys as Cotton Pickers," by Tom G. Lane, gives an account of a successful experiment with the animals by a Mississippi cotton planter:

Two years ago at the Vicksburg fair, in the fall of 1896, as Prof. S. M. Tracey and Mr. W. W. Mangum were watching some trained monkeys perform their various tricks, Prof. Tracey said to Mr. Mangum:

"As sure as you are alive, Mangum, those monkeys can be taught to pick cotton better and more cheaply than our negroes do, and perpetual fame will be the part of the man who first tries the experiment."

At first Mr. Mangum was inclined to laugh at the idea, but the more he thought over the matter, and the more he watched the monkeys at their various tricks, the more he became convinced that there was something in it, and the next day as he left the professor at the Carroll hotel, he said:

"Well, professor, I have been thinking over your suggestion of teaching monkeys to pick cotton, and I am determined to try the thing and see if it will work. They have been taught to do much more difficult things than that, and I am almost sure they can be taught to pick cotton. We can't rely on the niggers much longer, and next fall I am going to buy me a dozen monkeys and see what can be done."

The next fall, that is in September of 1897, Mr. Mangum hunted up the owner and trainer of ten trained monkeys in New York City, and made arrangements both to buy the monkeys, and to get the services of their trainer, who understood the business, and assured Mr. Mangum that it would be the simplest thing imaginable to teach the monkeys to pick cotton.

These were placed upon one of Mr. Mangum's Mississippi plantations about the middle of September of that year, and the training began. The monkeys belonged to the race known to scientists as Sphagalis Vulgaris, and the males weigh about 110 pounds and the females about 90 pounds each. Bags were made for each monkey, which would hold about 25 pounds of seed cotton, and a bag placed over the shoulder of each. It is surprising how rapidly the trainer taught the monkeys to pick the cotton. Baskets to hold the cotton were placed at the end of the rows, and one man, over and above the trainer, was necessary to take the cotton out of the sacks, and put it in the baskets. The females proved much better pickers than the males, for they not only picked cleaner cotton, but they would also pick more of it in a day. In less than a month after the monkeys were started at the work, they could pick on an average of 150 pounds a day. They picked in weather in which negroes would not pick, and picked cleaner cotton. The cost of picking was much less, and in every way they made much better pickers than the average negro.

The first experiment, although on a small scale, proved to Mr. Mangum that monkeys could be used with great success as cotton pickers, so in June, of 1898, he made an order for three hundred monkeys of the same breed on an

exporter of monkeys from Africa, with the understanding that most of them were to be females. About the first of September of this year the new batch of monkeys arrived, and the services of the old trainer were engaged to train the new lot.

But this was not such an easy matter as was at first thought, for many of the new monkeys were still wild. But the trainer thoroughly understood his business, having served for a long time under Barum as trainer of monkeys. Finally, with the aid of ten old monkeys, great deal of punishment and rewarding, the new gang were pretty well trained by the middle of October.

I have watched this experiment with greater interest than I have watched any new thing in years. I have kept in constant correspondence with Mr. Mangum about this matter, and about the middle of November I visited his plantation near Smedes to see the monkeys at their work. I must admit that it was a glorious sight to see, and one that did my heart great good. The rows were filled with monkeys, each one with her little cotton sack around her neck, picking away quietly and orderly, and without any rush or confusion. When they got their sacks full they would run to the end of the row, where a man was stationed to empty them into the cotton basket, when they would hurry back to their work. The monkeys seemed actually to enjoy picking.

That night I stayed all night with Mr. Mangum, and we had a long talk about this matter. I asked him to give me the plain facts about the case, so I could give them in the Cotton Planters' Journal to the cotton growers of the south. Mr. Mangum said in substance:

"I consider the day that Prof. Tracey suggested to me the training of monkeys as cotton pickers, as the most fortunate day the south has seen in many years. It means more to the south than a cotton picking machine, for the monkeys are a success as pickers, while the machines have been failures. The monkeys are in every way superior to negroes as cotton pickers. In the first place the cost of it is only about one-third. Then they are more careful than negroes, and pick a cleaner grade of cotton. Even in this rainy fall, when all other cotton was of a low grade, that picked by the monkeys was all middling, and sold for at least one-half cent more than that picked by the negroes. Then they will pick in weather in which you can't get a negro in the field. In fact, I believe that it is the greatest discovery that has been made for the cotton planter since Whitney invented the cotton gin. People laughed at me at first when I tried this thing, as they always do when a man tries anything new, but now that it has proved a success, all my neighbors are wild about it. The negroes have made repeated threats to kill the monkeys but as yet they have not done so, and I apprehend no very great danger in this direction."

In closing Mr. Mangum said: "You may say to the cotton planters of the south that it is a grand success, and that next June I shall make a large importation of monkeys from Africa, and that I would like to have other planters join me. My address is Smedes, Miss., and I would be pleased to correspond with any one interested in this matter."

I believe that Mr. Mangum is a greater benefactor to the cotton planter than Eli Whitney. I have just given him an order to import me 200 monkeys next summer, and I feel sure that we will soon be independent of the negro so far as cotton picking is concerned.

Rubber Stamps, Seals, Etc.
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GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

A LITTLE ABOUT MANY THINGS

The Pith of the World's News That Might Interest Our Readers. Some of It Fresh. Some May Be "Salty," But Not Spelt.

In New York Friday fire destroyed 13 buildings, opposite Battery Park, causing a loss of \$700,000.

The freeze injured orange trees and truck in Florida to some extent, and cut off peaches and plums in Georgia a third.

The Spanish supreme military which has under consideration the loss of the Spanish squadron at Santiago de Cuba on July 3rd, last, has decided to prosecute in connection with the disaster Admiral Cervera and Commander De Moren, former captain of the destroyed cruiser, Cristobal Colon.

At Atlanta, Ga., Joel Kelsey, an artist of considerable ability, committed suicide. He was greatly annoyed at what he considered the misdemeanors of his parents and two days ago told his mother he would commit suicide if she did not reform. The dead boy was but 14 years old and took morphine.

For Commissioner of Agriculture.

As the legislature will soon be casting about for some worthy son to place at the head of the agricultural department in place of Joe R. Smith, I think, as this department was organized particularly in the interest of the farmers of the State, that it should be managed and controlled by a man who knows farming both theoretically and practically. For this position I have in view a man who fills this bill—a man reared on a farm, halved on it all his life, is a man of education and deep reading on farming and other subjects, has traveled extensively over the north, south and west, and has observed the workings of farmers in all sections. He is a man of sufficient intelligence and has the gift of gab, to talk farming to the people, either in a public or private way. This man is the Hon. William W. Carraway, of Lenoir county, in whom the people would find a most admirable officer, who would bring success to the department and by his courteous manner would win to his support the farming element of the State. In the opinion of many no better selection could be made. FARMER. Greene County, N. C.

Egyptian Dancing in Egypt.

The genuine native dancing girls perform in the little cafes that abound in the Arabian quarter. These places are usually small and about 30 men squat around the seats that line the walls make a full house.

Here the Arabs come to smoke and drink coffee and hear the music, while in the center of the cafe the dancing girls perform. The places are filled with the smoke of the nargile and cigarettes, and the dreamy natives who lounge along the walls puff overlastingly on, barely noticing the girls who are weaving and swaying in the sinuous undulations of the dance to the time of a groggy tantom and the mellow drone of a reed whistle. The dance is about the same as the one seen at the World's fair in Chicago, divested of most of its offensive trimmings. There it was designed to startle and shock and come up to western notions of oriental depravity, while here on its native heath it is simply a dance that is as old as the country itself, and to those who have been accustomed to it through generations of familiarity it is probably as tame as the quadrille. It is only the dance prepared for the tourist that disgusts you and makes you think that the orient should be razed. —Chicago Record.

To Reduce Salaries.

Raleigh, Feb. 10.—The committee today made a favorable report on Currie's bill to reduce salaries of State officers. Under Mr. Currie's bill, the salaries will be fixed as follows:

State treasurer, \$2,250 from \$8,000. Chief clerk in treasurer's office, \$1,200 from \$1,500.

Secretary of State, \$1,800 from \$2,000. Railroad commissioners, \$1,500 each from \$2,000 each.

Superintendent of State's prison, \$1,800 from \$2,500.

Judges of supreme, superior and criminal courts, \$2,000 from \$2,500.

State librarian, \$750 from \$1,000.

Keeper of the capitol, \$650 from \$900.

Secretary board of public charities, \$2 50 per day from \$4 00.

Marshal and librarian to supreme court, \$700 from \$1,000.

Reporter to supreme court, \$500 from \$700.

Clerk of supreme court, \$200 and fees from \$300 and fees.

Superintendent of deaf, dumb and blind institutions, \$1,800 from \$2,000.

Steward for D. D. and B. institutions, \$700 from \$930.

Superintendent of central hospital, \$2,200 from \$2,800.

Steward at central hospital, \$700 from \$1,000.

Superintendent of Morganton hospital, \$2,200 from \$2,800.

Steward at Morganton hospital, \$700 from \$1,000.

All deputy inspectors of shell fish, \$35 per month from \$50 per month.

Mr. Currie says that he introduced this bill because the salaries as fixed in his bill will buy as much as the old salaries would when they were fixed, and he thinks that this being the case this reduction should be made in justice to the tax-payers of the State.

Sunday Trading.

A German shopkeeper went one Sunday morning to a customer in order to demand the payment of a long neglected account. The police heard of this and regarded it as a violation of the new law against trading during the hours of worship. The offender was cited and fined. He appealed to the kammergericht, and was discharged as innocent. What the law expressly forbids, said the kammergericht, is any "public or open labor or trading within the prescribed time."

On the police interpretation two men who talked incidentally about their business relations on Sunday morning on their way to church might be arrested as violators of the law, which would be palpably tyrannical and absurd. This recalls the good old tale of two Sabbatarian farmers who hit upon a casuistical method of doing trade on the Lord's day without breaking the fourth commandment. "What would you give for that calf," asked one, "if it were not the Sabbath?" "If it were not the Sabbath I would give you so much," naming the sum. "Tomorrow, then, we will consider it a bargain." —London News.

A Bit of Ribbon.

A London paper tells this story of the final signing of the Spanish-American peace treaty: "Every diplomatic instrument bears a seal from which depends a ribbon, and when the seal was about to be affixed to the treaty the commissioners, both of Spain and America, expressed a desire, in graceful acknowledgment of the courtesy shown by France, that the dependent ribbon should be bicolored. Search was forthwith made high and low in the Quai d'Orsay, with the result that in the foreign office of the French republic not a bit of ribbon of the French colors could be found.

"At this critical juncture a brilliant inspiration flashed across one of the heads of the department. 'Go,' he said to a messenger, 'to M. X—, the confectioner, in the Rue St. Honore, for a pound of chocolate cakes and be sure you ask him to tie them up with a tricolor ribbon.' With that bit of confectioner's ribbon the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States was sealed."

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

CLIPPINGS FROM EXCHANGES

Of Items That Will Interest North Carolinians. Some News, Some Politics—All of Some Interest to True "Tar Heels."

The Statesville Landmark tells of the death of Mrs. Rebecca Campbell, of Iredell county, who weighed about 425 pounds. She was probably the heaviest person in the State.

Greenville Reflector: Telephone communication with Stokes, which had been cut off for the last day or two, caused by one of the steamboats pulling down the wires where they cross the river. The water is so high that it made the mast of the boat reach the wires.

The committee on judicial districts and courts has voted to recommend that there be two additional superior court districts in lieu of the two present criminal districts: A sub-committee will talk with Gov. Russell in regard to judges. It is said he will nominate whomsoever the Democrats name.

At the Farmers' Home, at Folkston, near Wilmington, Mrs. A. T. Blake and her 18-months-old baby were fatally burned. The infant, while playing near the fireplace, had its clothes ignited and was burned beyond hope of relief. The frantic mother made desperate efforts to save her child, and her dress becoming ignited, she too was fatally burned.

Mr. J. H. Pou says of the constitutional suffrage amendment: "I think the conclusion eminently wise. It will mark an epoch in the State's history. With the ratification of the amendment by the people the 35 years fight we have waged against darkness and barbarism, for the preservation of civilization, ends; and we can henceforth devote our attention to building up the State without fearing that the next election would destroy our work. With good government secured, I predict that our State will advance by leaps and bounds in material prosperity. I predict that thousands of Republicans and Populists will vote with us in forever settling the race issue. I believe that future generations will rise up and call this general assembly blessed."

He Caught On.

Sketchy Bits.
Manager (to new assistant)—Business at this establishment is conducted on thoroughly up-to-date lines, no customer being allowed to leave without making a purchase. Here is a lady entering now. Take notice of my method of serving her.

Lady—What is the price of your shot silk per yard?

Manager—Ten shillings, madam.

Lady—Dear, is it not?

Manager—Have you not heard how the silk worms are dying off in China?

Lady—Oh, in that case, I will take 10 yards.

Manager (triumphantly to new assistant)—Now, that is the way we sell our goods. Let me see you serve this lady who is just entering.

Lady—What is the price of your tape per yard?

New Assistant—Sixpence, madam.

Lady—How is that? I bought some a short time ago at a penny a yard.

New Assistant—Have you not heard how the tape worms are dying in China?

Collapse of manager.

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