

# THE PINE KNOT.

LIGHTED FOR THE ILLUMINATION OF TAR HEELS, BOTH NATIVE AND ADOPTED.

VOL. I.

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1886.

NO. 9.

## THE PINE KNOT.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT

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It is at this season of the year that the difference between the climate of the North and that of this section of the South is most noticeable. It ought to be a cause of devout thankfulness to us who dwell in North Carolina that we are not confronting a six months' desperate struggle with the demons of ice and snow.

Northern Settlers of North Carolina, don't forget that what helps one section helps the whole state! If you are not generous enough to forward any enterprise that does not immediately benefit your own neighborhood, at least show good sense enough to keep from disparaging anything that is a real help to the State. We are led to say this from having seen some newspaper comment which displayed that narrow-mindedness to which we have alluded.

There is said to be a movement on foot among the colored people to immigrate to Southern California. If they go, we shouldn't be surprised to see a movement on foot among them to get back. Southern California is not the paradise for working people that many think it is. As for the colored people being welcomed as servants in the place of the Chinese, it is our opinion that they will require a great deal of training before they are very enthusiastically received as servants in any part of the country. We believe that they are better off where they are.

We are glad to see that the question of reducing the legal rate of interest in North Carolina is being agitated. A lower rate would help all parties, the lender as well as the borrower, because there would be greater inducement to engage in new enterprises if capital could be obtained on reasonable terms, and the consequence would be increased demand for money and increased profit to the lender.

### DOES IT PAY?

Does it pay to raise "razor-back" hogs? This is not a conundrum, but a serious question. Nobody doubts that these hogs, running wild about the country, are a nuisance. They are covered with vermin; they are often diseased; they are always an eyesore. As an offset to these serious disadvantages it ought to be proveable that there is large profit in keeping them. But can this be proved? Personally, we don't consider the question

open to argument, for we are totally opposed to the hog as an article of diet, but many people do believe in him and so we'll debate the question from their standpoint.

It is claimed that it costs nothing to raise hogs in this way; therefore all the returns must be clear profit. Is this a fact of observation, or is it only guess-work? Does it cost nothing to raise them? So far as we have observed, it is the custom during ten or eleven months of the year to feed them either not at all or just enough to rouse their ambition, so that they run off all the fat they would otherwise gain from the food. Then, a month or six weeks before his carcass is required, the "razor-back" is kept up and fed. How he does eat! It is no trifle of corn that he consumes in that time, but substantial pecks and bushels. The result is a hundred pounds of poor, flabby pork from an animal that ought to have furnished three hundred. A careful balancing of receipts and expenditures will generally reveal the fact that this little mess of scrawny pork has cost more per pound than a good quality of the same article, obtained from an animal that has been kept up and fed regularly.

The following from a writer in the N. Y. Times is to the point, and should be read and pondered by every owner of these miserable creatures.

These North Carolina swine are half starved during the summer, living upon roots, and often digging up the roots of trees, which they follow for many feet until the wholly uneatable woody fiber of the solid part is reached. In the fall, when the mast falls, they consume the chestnuts and acorns, filling themselves to repletion and gorging their shrunken bellies with the unwholesome food.

The condition of semi-starvation in which these wretched creatures live is such that a three months' old pig sometimes weighs no more than eight or ten pounds, and in spring those which survive the winter are mere skeletons, yearling pigs frequently weighing no more than twenty-five or thirty pounds. It is a common thing to see the swine wandering about the woods with bells around their necks, the slender necks and big jaws forming a safe and excellent fitting for the strap which holds the bell. The miserable beasts have no shelter from the cold rains of winter but a shelving rock, and no food but the husks of the dried and dead mast. Many perished of starvation last winter when the unexampled snow covered the ground for two weeks, and left them with only such food as could be found by rooting in the snow.

Under these conditions, what else is to be expected but disease? The hogs

are weakened by vicious breeding, exposure, and starvation; and when the mast fall it is greedily eaten, with its hard, fibrous, astringent husk, and as may be expected, produces first indigestion, then inflammation of the digestive organs, disturbance of their functions, blood poisoning, and the febrile disease which is known as cholera. No doubt this is a most virulent contagious disease, especially when the animals are prepared for the sowing of its seeds in their system, by a feverish condition brought on by unwholesome feeding.

### FROM CHARLOTTE TO SOUTHERN PINES.

On Saturday night the excursionists returned eastward from Charlotte to Southern Pines where it was proposed to spend Sunday. Railroad travelling is not very rapid in this section and it was 4:30 on Sunday morning when we had made the 107 miles between the two points and turned out of the sleeper berths into the more comfortable beds at the hotel. Some three hours sleep however brought us into the balmy sunshine of an autumn morning, with atmosphere redolent of the odor of pines and the light wind plying a quiet anthem among the needles. This point is a new enterprise located on a sandy ridge through the pine belt and turpentine and rosin manufacturing region of the State. It is intended as a sanitarium and resort for persons with weak lungs, and those here report a marked success in this respect. It has one hotel and another one nearly completed, and a number of new cottages building and projected. A walk first to the Shaw farm on which Sherman's army at one time encamped, the gathering of gentian, button snake root and other botanical specimens, the testing of mineral waters and general ramble through the pine forest put one in good shape to enjoy dinner. In the afternoon some of the crowd walked to Manly, a mile and half distant to inspect some stills—not molasses but turpentine. Being Sunday they were of course idle, but the modus operandi was apparent, being similar to the operation of making any other distilled liquor. The turpentine which collects in the notches of tapped trees is heated in a retort, and the volatile matter being driven off in the form of gas is condensed in a worm from which it issues as turpentine. The best of the residue is the resin of commerce, and the balance refuse. In 1880 this State manufactured 6,279,000 gallons of turpentine, 653,967 barrels of rosin and 80,000 barrels of tar, quite an important industry. Southern Pines rejoices in a newspaper, the *Pine Knot*, edited by B. A. Goodridge, a bright young New Englander. Society here though limited is good and congenial. While passing one of the cottages the proprietor was observed cutting wood. "This is Sunday," remarked one of the passers. "Ex necessitate laborum," quickly came the response.

Ordinarily we would not have been able to leave Southern Pines for the East until Tuesday morning, but F. W. Clark, General Passenger Agent of the Seaboard Air-Line, having come down in his private car a train was ordered to run East on schedule time on Monday morning, so that we got back to Raleigh without further delay. —Correspondence in Steubenville, (Ohio) Daily Herald.