

TOBACCO IN CUBA.

Tobacco Land Sells for \$1000 an Acre—A Single Acre Produces \$3000 Worth of Tobacco.

MESSRS. EDITORS—

In your last issue I had something to say of the manufacture of cigars in Havana. Of course it is the delicacy of flavor and aroma of the Cuban tobacco that makes the Havana cigar so famous and I had a great desire while in Cuba to go out and see the tobacco fields which were just then (Christmas) at their most flourishing period. Hence it might not be uninteresting to your readers, all of whom are acquainted with tobacco culture, to know something of the cultivation of the costliest tobacco on earth. In what I shall say, however, I am stating not what I myself saw, but what I gathered from guide books or heard in conversation.

While tobacco may be raised in most of the island of Cuba the superior qualities come from that part west of Havana, covering the province of Pinar del Rio and the western portion of the province of Havana. Not only so but even here only on the eastern slopes of the mountains and at a good altitude above the sea are the finest grades to be found. How almost priceless must this land be when a single acre here produces as high as \$3000 worth of tobacco. The plantations, which are small fields of about ten acres, are some five thousand in number and one authority says that about ten pounds of tobacco seed are needed to the acre.

What strikes us as strange is that the plants are set out in late October or early November and are cut some three months later about February the first. My friend, Buck Farley, says that he might buy him a farm down there to work during the winter months, but the price of \$500 or \$1000 an acre rather dampens his enthusiasm. The young plants when about three inches high are bedded out in furrows two feet apart.

Every plant is watched with the tenderest care; each leaf is constantly examined, the green worms killed and the furrows kept clean. The small leaves are picked off and when full grown the head of the plant also; that is, it is "topped." This leaves the big leaves, generally about ten in a number, to expand and spread in the sun. The color of the leaf is bright green until mature, when it begins to turn yellow. "They are then gathered by cutting the stalk in such a manner that two leaves remain on each piece of stalk. The leaves are then strung over their poles in the drying houses, one leaf each side of the pole, and left to dry about five weeks. The drying houses are large, airy barns, thatched with palm leaves, the inside being arranged with rows of poles one above the other." In other words the inside arrangements is much like our barns, but their "curing" is far different. When the leaves are taken down they are put together in bundles of about one hundred leaves and then into bales of about eighty bundles and wrapped in palm leaves. These were the bales I saw stored in the lower floor of the great cigar factories in Havana.

Of the whole island the crop is estimated at some 560,000 bales.

The export of this tobacco steadily increased reaching in 1895, 299,000 bales of 100 pounds each, but in 1896 with the oncoming of political troubles and war dropping to less than half that amount. During those troublous times the plantations suffered severely as did the sugar plantations; now with the return of peace and the establishment of a stable government by the Americans the cultivation of the best product of the sorrow-soothing weed will flourish as never before in the history of this bright Pearl of the Antilles.

WILLIAM LINWOOD FOUSHEE.

Relief for the People Comes.

Washington, D. C., June 1.—Today for the first time since the war revenue taxes were in 1898, the American people can have their chewing gum, use their perfumery and cosmetics, send telegrams and express packages, insure their lives and transact legal and financial business without paying Uncle Sam for the privilege. The new revenue tax which goes into effect to-day relieves the public of about \$45,000,000 in annual expenditures and deprives the government of a similar amount of income.

Included among the articles on which the tax has been repealed out right are bank checks, bills of lading for export, bond or obligation by guarantee company, certificates of damage, certificates of deposit, charter party, chewing gum, commercial brokers, sight drafts, express receipts, life insurance policies, leases, manifests for custom-house entry, mortgages or conveyances in trust, orders for payment of money on sight or demand, perfumery and cosmetics, power of attorney, promissory notes, proprietary medicines, protests, telegraph messages, telephone messages, United States money orders and warehouse receipts.

Tunnel Caves in in Baltimore.

Baltimore, June 26.—With a great roar the Pennsylvania railroad tunnel beneath Hoffman street caved in early this morning and through east bound train No. 78 from New York to Jacksonville, was nearly caught.

The engineer heard the first crash of the falling wall and stopped just in time.

Debris is piled up in front and at the side of the engine. Engineer Merely and fireman crawled out and escaped from the west end. The coaches and baggage car were hauled back and out the east end.

Immediately after the cave in the water mains, laid above the tunnel burst and a torrent of water swamped against the sides increasing the diameter of the hole. Shade trees, cobblestone and curbing crumbled away like paper and at 3 a. m. the top of the tunnel gave way, carrying tons of earth into the hole.

Furniture Firms Unite.

High Point, N. C., June 27.—The Globe Furniture Company and the Home Furniture, two of our largest manufacturing concerns, consolidated and will incorporate under the laws of the State of New Jersey with a paid up capital of \$150,000.

A Word of Warning to the County Pension Board.

The liberal provisions to the new pension act passed by the last Legislature have resulted in a very large increase in the number of applications for pensions in this State.

So great is the number that State Auditor Dixon has deemed it advisable to sound a note of warning. Yesterday he sent out to the various county pension boards a letter in which he says:

"The number of pension blanks called for and sent out from this office has been unprecedented. At least thirty thousand (30,000) have gone to the different counties. If one-half of this number get upon the pension roll, the amount paid to each one will be so small it will not be of any benefit. I ask you to use your utmost diligence against the admission of any one not clearly entitled to a pension. I would also request that the name and postoffice of each applicant approved by your Board be plainly written on a typewritten list, if possible, of each applicant and their postoffice accompany the approved application when sent to this office, in order that no mistake may occur here in making out and forwarding the pension warrants."

It was expected that the new pension act would cause some considerable increase in the number of pensions, and to this end an additional appropriation of nearly \$100,000 was made to the pension fund by the last Legislature, but the increase in the number of pensions applied for is so much greater than was expected that Auditor Dixon has deemed it well to call attention to the necessity for carefulness and investigation in passing on the applications.

Last year about 6,000 pensions were paid; the amount as expended was about \$113,000. This year the appropriation is \$200,000.

Handsome Donations.

Talking with prof. H. M. Wilson yesterday concerning the Textile Department of the A. and M. College, of which he is the head, he told us of a large increase in the donation from New England where the manufacturers expressed great interest in the department. The donations in the most approved machinery amount to about \$25,000 and has been secured through the friends of the school.

At the animal meeting of the Baptist Grphanage at Thomasville, the sermon by Dr. Barron, remember, will be preached on Thursday night, July, 23rd, at 8 o'clock and the address by Hon. R. B. Glenn will be delivered on Wednesday following at 11 o'clock.

Baltimore, July 1.—This city is the hottest place in the United States. The thermometer this afternoon registered 101; relative humidity about 65 per cent. One death and several prostrations are reported.

Washington July 1.—This is the hottest day we have had this year. Twenty-two cases of heat prostrations were treated at the hospital one of which resulted fatally. The thermometer registered 100 at two o'clock. Tonight it is close and oppressive with the mercury in the nineties.

Mob Takes Vengeance.

Suffolk, Va., July 1.—Joseph Walton, a dead negro suspended from Ghobon's bridge, twenty five feet above Mehearin river, four miles south of Lawrenceville, Va., is a horrible object lesson in lynch law ethics. Walton met his death because he was accused of attempting a criminal assault on pretty sixteen-year old Kate Clark, daughter of J. H. Clark, who lives near Triplett's, Va.

No Reduction of Force in Cuba.

Washington, June 29.—There is no intention on the part of the War Department to reduce the military force in Cuba at the present time or in the immediate future. The present force of nearly five thousand men is held in Cuba on the recommendation of General Wood and the Secretary will depend on General Wood's advice as to the reduction of the force.

Hot as Blazes.

New York, July 1.—The intense heat continues today. Up to a late hour this afternoon 28 deaths had been reported in Greater New York.

An Answer to Forsaker.

General Forsaker, in order to have powder for his campaign, declares strongly for the rights of the negro in the South. Unless these are secured there must not be any restoration of the democratic party to power.

The New York World calls the turn well by saying:

Very good; the republicans have controlled the state of Ohio absolutely for the last ten years; how many negroes have they rewarded with office?

We would amend by suggesting that in lieu of office the republicans should make the negro secure in seeking work in republican states. The Ohio lyncher and barn burner has proven himself to be quite up to the average of his class.—Constitution.

The Public Man as a Husband.

No public act of President McKinley has ever endeared him so much to the people as his gentle treatment of his sick wife. There is note of plaintive pathos in her recent interview in which she says that for 25 years she has been an invalid; yet Mr. McKinley has never uttered one word of unkindness to her. She longs—like all true women—for a time when he can lay aside the cares of State, and belong wholly to her. A man who can refuse to attend Harvard commencement and thereby forfeit the degree of L. L. D., in order to watch by the bed of an ailing woman, shows high qualities that outbreak all of statesmanship or diplomacy. Man's first duty is to the wife of his bosom rather than to the State. The real patriots are women, the wives of professional men who stifle the womanly yearning for the presence of their husbands, in order that the public may have their full service. For the toils and tempests of this turbulent life, there is no refuge like the home graced with the love of a good woman.

Mr. Henry T. King, editor of King's Weekly, was married in Edgecombe county to Miss Blanche Draughon. They will live in Greenville.

The Situation in the Coal Fields

Bluefield, W. V., June 29.—Two bodies were found in a pile of drift at Landingraff today. The bodies were badly decomposed and were promptly burned.

Passenger trains are run between points where the track has been repaired, but there are at least forty miles not yet connected, but it is expected that the line will be in shape for a train to get through tomorrow. A number of coal companies resumed work this morning and loaded over two hundred cars. Rain storms continue to visit this section and delay work on repair. There is no suffering. The telegraph lines have been gotten up as far as Vivian.

A Boy Weighs 690 Pounds

Norfolk Landmark: Mr. Louis Lewark, of Currituck county, N. C., has the distinction of being the biggest man in North Carolina. Louis is only 17 years old and tips the scales at 690 pounds. His shoes, which are always made to order by a firm in Elizabeth City, have the following dimensions: Seventeen inches instep, thirteen inches toe to heel, five inches across the ball of the shoe and thirty-one inches around the shoe. A man of ordinary build can place both of his feet in one of these shoes with ease. Lewark enjoys perfect health and is as strong as a bull, being able to lift the weight that would require the effort of six ordinary men.

Entrance Examination for A. and M. College.

Candidates for admission to the A. M. College at Raleigh will be examined by the County Superintendent of Schools in the court-house at 10 o'clock a. m. July 11. The College is giving instruction in the most important lines of practical education, and its students are in great demand, always securing profitable employment on graduation. It offers special advantages to students of Agriculture, including free tuition and lodging and work on the College farm. The textile building is now being erected. A Professor of fancy weaving and dyeing has been added to the Faculty, and about \$20,000 of textile machinery secured. As dormitory accommodation is very limited it would be well for candidates to apply early. Write to President Winston, Raleigh, N. C., for catalogue and booklets. See advertisement.

Here's a law suit that illustrates how great folly men may be guilty of. The Wilkesboro Chronicle says: "The trial of 'the war of the pitchforks' came off Saturday at Atkins shop and R. L. and F. L. Atkins were bound over to court for assault with deadly weapon. The entire trouble is over a few feet of land worth something like \$2. Four lawyers appeared in the case, and they were good ones.

The losses sustained by the West Virginians by the great flood are not yet ascertained, but it is estimated that they will amount to \$3,000,000. Nearly two-thirds of the miners are left absolutely homeless, and in great distress, are in the woods or on the mountains. Gov. White says that he fears the loss of life will amount to 1,000. Another estimate is 2,000, while the Washington Post states that it will not exceed 100. The trail of the wreckage extends for 80 miles. Negro looters were shot and killed.