







DEATH OF PANT-MASTER T. E. ALLEN, OF MINNESOTA.

The order throughout the country will regret to learn of the death of Bro. Allen. He was a firm, steadfast, earnest friend of the Patrons of Husbandry and few have rendered more effective service to the cause than he...

THE SILVER BILL.

The house concurred in the senate amendments to the silver bill, and it now only awaits the signature of the president to become a law. It is by no means what the people want, but it is all we could get from the senate.

CAPT. J. B. EADS ON THE NAVIGATION OF THE MISSOURI AND KANSAS RIVERS.

We publish below a letter from Capt. Eads to Col. Mumford, editor of the Kansas City Times. It will be seen that Mr. Eads thinks even the Kansas river can easily be made navigable.

I am much obliged for the kind terms with which you have alluded to me in this and previous numbers of the Times. I should be glad if I had leisure to address you a letter for publication on the important questions to which you refer in your letter...

The question of success of a barge line with the Missouri river unimproved, is one which can be better determined by experience and intelligent Missouri river boatmen, than by an engineer...

What the people of Kansas should unite in demanding is the improvement of their water communication with the sea, bearing in mind that every mile of deep water gained from the sea up towards them will insure greater benefits to them than an equal number of miles of deep water gained from Kansas towards the sea...

I know but little of the Kansas river, except that gained by frequent trips on the Kansas Pacific railroad; but have no doubt that its minimum depths will one day be greatly increased. I am induced to believe from what I have seen of it, that it could be deepened at a very moderate cost, compared with the great value of the products of the territory drained by it.

GREENBACK PARTY.

Hold their National Convention at Toledo, O.—Twenty-eight States Represented, Pennsylvania Leading off, followed by Illinois, etc.

TOLEDO, Feb. 22.—The Greenback party of the United States met in its first regular convention at 10:30 this morning, in F. Trowell's hall, of Detroit, temporary chairman.

The most numerously represented state in the convention is Pennsylvania, which sends fifty-four delegates. Illinois sends thirty; Michigan, Ohio and Indiana are also very largely represented, but there is only one delegate from the Pacific coast.

At the meeting, last night, the more prominent delegates decided to eliminate from the platform all mention of interconvertible bonds, which seemed at that time to be the only point of contention among the delegates.

Upon reassembling, the committees not being ready to report, the convention was entertained by the singing of Greenback songs. In response to a call, Harper, of Illinois, made a speech and Allis presented the views of the Greenback state central committee of Wisconsin on the financial question.

By permission, the ladies of Toledo presented a communication from the Toledo Woman's Suffrage association. It urged the convention to include in its platform a plank recognizing the rights of women to a participation in the elective franchise, if not in its broadest extent, at least that tax-paying women be declared competent to vote in municipal elections.

Judge Hughes, on taking the chair, briefly thanked the body for the honor conferred, and reviewed the national banking system from the first feeble and fruitless attempts to inaugurate it in 1789 to the present time.

The report of the committee on resolutions not being yet ready, the convention took a recess at 5:45 till 7 o'clock. At 7 o'clock the convention reassembled and the following platform was reported: First—It is the exclusive function of the general government to coin and create money and regulate its value.

THE SPIRIT OF KANSAS.

Second—There shall be no privileged class of creditors. All debts and obligations, public and private, shall be discharged in legal tender money of the United States strictly according to stipulations of the laws under which they were contracted.

Fourth—Congress shall provide said money adequate to the full employment of labor, the equitable distribution of its products and the requirements of business, fixing a minimum amount per capita to the population, as near as may be, and otherwise regulating its volume by wise and suitable provisions of law, so that the rate of interest will secure to labor its just reward.

Sixth—The public lands are common property of the whole people and should not be sold to speculators nor granted to railroads or other corporations, but should be donated to actual settlers in limited quantities.

Eighth—All useless offices should be abolished, the most rigid economy favored in every branch of the public service, and severe punishments inflicted upon public officers who betray trust reposed in them.

Ninth—As educated labor has devised means for multiplying productions by inventions and discoveries, and as their use requires the exercise of the mind as well as the body, such legislation should be had that the number of hours of daily toil will be reduced, giving to the working classes more leisure for mental improvement and social enjoyment, and saving them from premature decay and death.

Eleventh—Both the national and state government should establish a bureau of labor and industrial statistics, clothed with the power of gathering and publishing the same.

Twelfth—That the contract system of employing labor in our prisons and reformatory institutions work great injustice to our mechanics and artisans, and should be prohibited.

The platform was adopted without debate and a national executive committee appointed, consisting of one member from each state. After speeches by various members the convention adjourned sine die.

THE LATEST MARKETS.

Table with columns: Produce Markets, ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26, 1878. Items include Flour, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Rye, Barley, Pork, Dry salt meats, Bacon, Lard.

Table with columns: Produce Markets, CHICAGO, Feb. 26, 1878. Items include Wheat, Corn, Oats, Pork, Bulk Meats.

Table with columns: Produce Markets, KANSAS CITY, Feb. 26, 1878. Items include Wheat, Corn, Oats, Pork, Bulk Meats.

Table with columns: Live Stock Markets, ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26, 1878. Items include Cattle, Hogs, Poultry.

Table with columns: Live Stock Markets, CHICAGO, Feb. 26, 1878. Items include Cattle, Hogs, Poultry.

In Kansas City leading articles of produce are quoted as follows: Butter, best, 20c; medium 16c; common, low grade, 8c; cheese, 10c; eggs, 9c; for fresh; white beans, steady, 1.00@1.25, hand picked, \$2.00@2.20; castor beans 80@70c.

Wheat has risen since our last quotations in all the Eastern markets, but the tendency at this date is downward. No man can predict with any degree of certainty whether wheat will be higher or lower in the spring. It should be noted that the "Eastern question" wheat would rapidly rise, and might bring \$2.00 or even \$2.50 per bushel.

Corn has risen a cent or two in most markets, and the tendency now is upward. Eye and oats have risen. Cattle have not varied much since our last report. There is a slightly improved demand for best shipping cattle.



Horticultural Department.

Mr. Daniel B. Bruen, a venerable and highly esteemed citizen of Newark, N. J., forcibly urges consumers throughout the country to unite in a general movement, to compel by law the sale of vegetables, fruit, eggs, and nearly every edible article, by weight. This is undoubtedly the only fair way, and there ought to be no objection to it from any quarter.

As a general rule we do not believe that farmers, with such a multiplicity of work as rests upon them, would gain anything by cultivating or attempting to cultivate even a small vineyard of a hundred vines. If they would procure half a dozen vines, say three of each, of the Concord and Dracut Amber, and find a good rich spot, and take pains to prepare it by digging deep and enriching it with bones, shavings, scrapings from the wood-yard and rotten manure, and then set out vigorous vines with plenty of strong roots and take good care of them till they come to bearing, they would reap more profit and pleasure from this limited number than from a vineyard of straggling vines badly managed, and receiving little care except what nature bestows upon them. We mention the Concord not because it is absolutely the best grape, but because it is a vigorous and healthy grower and prolific in fruit. It ripens sufficiently early, is not likely to mildew or rot, its flavor is good and always commands a good price in market.

There are many who would prefer other kinds rather than the Dracut Amber. We select this for its vigorous growth, the large and showy appearance of its fruit, its hardy habits and great yield. We have always found it acceptable to the taste of children.

Hints on the Subject of Insects.

The destruction of our crops by insects is not due solely to a paucity of the feathered tribes; it is due to a considerable extent, as we believe, to the degeneracy of our crops. Wheat, when from the exhaustion of the soil it produces only eight or ten bushels per acre, is much more liable to be attacked and destroyed by insects than when it yields thirty or forty bushels per acre. So of all other crops. The more vigorous and thrifty our fields of corn, the less likely they are to be devoured by the chinch bug. Our healthy and fast growing apple trees are hardly ever injured by the attack of the flat-headed borer, while the stunted and unthrifty trees are pretty sure to be spoiled. We do not think our farmers as yet half appreciate the economy of keeping up their fields to the very highest point of tillage and productiveness. In superficial tillage, in lack of thoroughness, there is a double loss—a loss in the amount of the product and a further loss by the invitation that poor cultivation gives to insect depredation. We would like to have the experience of those who have had their attention turned to this subject of the attacks of insects on vegetation tell us what they know on this point to which we have alluded.

Blackberries.

The Kittatimny and Lawton blackberries are each a magnificent fruit and productive beyond belief. If you wish to set out either kind, manure the ground moderately with well rotted manure, plow deep, harrow well and run furrows at least eight feet apart; cross mark at the same distance, thus giving eight feet each way between the plants. Set about six inches deep with one plant in a hill. The vines will, the first year, be of rather slender growth and take a low or trailing form; these should be shortened in a little in the spring, then cover the ground with old straw or litter of any kind under the canes, after putting the ground in order, letting the fruit rest upon the mulch which keeps it clean from the ground.

The next year the plant takes an upright form, throwing up two, three and sometimes four long shoots. Plow and cultivate freely but shallow two or three times the first part of the season, keeping down all weeds and the ground light; after this mulch freely with straw, hay or almost anything else that comes along and will cover the ground and keep it moist and friable and the fruit clean. Each fall all the old and dead canes should be carefully cut out and removed, as well as

the supernumerary branches not intended for fruit. The great danger in cultivating this fruit is in suffering the canes to make an impenetrable jungle too thick to be cultivated, too dense to be passed through. This tendency to cover the ground and mass together must be counteracted by severe pruning and close attention.

The Garden.

The management of the garden among our Western farmers too generally devolves upon the wives and daughters of the household and, in very many cases there would be no garden kept up at all, worthy the name of garden, but for them. Without much knowledge or experience in the business of horticulture, the entire responsibility of the arrangement and general management of the garden falls into the hands of women. This is all wrong. The farmer himself should take as much pride and feel as great an interest in a well kept garden as in a well cultivated farm. We do not object to women taking charge of a garden. Much of the labor done in a garden is light, pleasant and agreeable; it is well fitted to the strength, taste and handiwork of women. But usually there are so many household duties pressing upon them and demanding their time and care that it would be a burden and responsibility too mighty to bear up under by taking the additional charge of a garden. Besides, there are some kinds of heavy work required in the several departments of horticulture which women are not fitted for, and which require the strength of able bodied men. This kind of work the farmer ought to be ever ready to attend to without being teased or coaxed by his better-half. In regard to the garden, especially, there should be perfect sympathy and a good, mutual understanding. There should be a hearty co-operation between the parties concerned. The husband and wife ought to be one. They should plan together and work together; strengthen each other's hands and encourage each other's hearts. We deem the garden of such importance to the comfort, health, pleasure and well being of the farmer himself and of his family, that our readers will excuse us, we are sure, for the frequency and the urgency with which we present the subject. We are certain that this branch of agriculture has not heretofore, and does not now, receive the consideration which its importance demands. In a financial point of view, in an educational point of view, in its moral bearings in its religious influence, in its contribution to all the essentials of a pure and happy life the garden holds a high rank. We can conceive neither of man, woman nor child having a genuine love of horticulture, cultivating a garden for the love of it, laying it out according to the rules of art, arranging its plants, fruits and flowers in an orderly way, keeping it free from noxious weeds and injurious insects, as having any affinity with evil, any love of wrong or any antagonism to whatever is purest and best. The garden, beautiful with flowers and plants, is a school of virtue, an incentive to goodness, an attractive religious force drawing us, with its sweet and benign influence, forever towards that heavenly kingdom which we daily pray may come on earth.

EDITOR SPIRIT:—Please give five or six varieties of apples for family use that have proved to be good for Southern Kansas. J. W. GREENWOOD COUNTY, Feb. 21, 1878.

We would name the Missouri Pippin, Ben Davis, Jonathan, Winesap, Rome Beauty, Willottwig and Maiden's Blush as standing high, if not highest on the fruit growers' list of Douglas county. We presume these kinds could be as successfully grown in your county and would give as good satisfaction there as here.

The Marshall Pear.

This fine new American pear originated in Washington county, in this state. Tree moderately vigorous; very productive; fruit rather large; bell shaped; greenish russet, becoming yellowish when ripe; thin skin; flesh white, juicy, buttery; flavor neither sweet nor sour; ten days after the Bartlett; as good bearer and better fruit; smooth; does not crack nor canker.—Country Gentleman.

Plant shade and ornamental trees to beautify and adorn your homes and to attract the birds that you may hear their sweet songs. Plant fruit trees, plant vines, plant flowers.

The Household.

An Offer.

To our lady friends, and by this term we include all those ladies who take, read and appreciate THE SPIRIT, we wish to tender our thanks and ask a boon. You have stood by us fast and firm; you have aided us by your pen; you have encouraged us by your words of approval; in fine, you have been among our most steadfast supporters. Our relation, therefore, being one of amity and mutual helpfulness, we ask your further aid in assisting us to increase the number of readers of THE SPIRIT. There are no more efficient canvassers for papers than we find among the women when they take hold of the work with a will. In this matter of canvassing for our paper you can do us an essential service. You fully appreciate the usefulness of our paper; you are desirous of placing it in the hands of every farmer and laborer in the state; you believe that its great aim is to educate, elevate, encourage and help every one who is engaged in the business of agriculture. In behalf of our paper you have given us many kind words, now assist us by your kind deeds. As a partial return on our part we engage to send to the lady friend who will furnish us the longest list of subscribers accompanied with cash, at \$1.25 a number, a rich black mohair dress pattern, or its equivalent value in any other article, which the canvasser may choose, this offer to remain open till the first day of May next. The subscriptions may be sent in singly as they are taken. It will be advisable for all competitors for this prize to send in their names with the first subscription so that we can enter them on our list and thus avoid any mistakes.

MR. EDITOR:—You seem to think it too bad that we matrons and young ladies do not write for the ladies' column, while the children keep their full and running over. I think married ladies, housekeepers and women with families are excusable, for where do you find a housekeeper that has any spare time? I can scarcely find time to read THE SPIRIT, much less write for the ladies' column; but I thought I would just this once steal a little time while the baby sleeps and the rest of the children are at school. I would like to see the ladies' column well filled, and hear some good topics discussed. I would like to see all the young ladies form themselves into a club, and declare themselves anti-tobacco maids, and that they will not accept any young man that indulges in the useless weed. I would like to hear housekeeping discussed—the best and quickest way to get our work done; the rearing and training of children, and the best way to make them useful. Yes, there are many topics on which the sisters might write if they could find time to exercise their abilities. "But," says one, "I have no ability; I could not write anything that would edify anybody." This is not where the trouble lies; we do not know what we can do if we never try. As I said before, our time is so taken up with our daily duties, we have no time left to improve our little talent. I have not now time to discuss any subject, but if some sister will choose a subject and write upon it, perhaps we who read THE SPIRIT may be benefited and thereby find a way to improve our talent. Now, Mr. Editor, if you see fit to print my article, all right; if not, throw it into the waste basket. AUNT SALLY. BURLINGTON, Kans., Feb. 18, 1878.

Cure for Snake Bites.

EDITOR SPIRIT:—To cure snake bite or similar poisonous bites poultice frequently with strong wood ashes and administer internally small doses of soda. I have found this remedy to be effective. H. HAWKINS.

EXTRA MINCE PIE.—Two pounds of lean beef, boiled, and when cold chopped fine; one pound of beef suet, chopped very fine; five pounds of apples, cored and chopped; one pound of suet, raisins, washed; two pounds of raisins, seeded and chopped; two pounds of currants, washed in several waters; three-quarters of a pound of citron cut fine; two tablespoonfuls of cinnamon, one grated nutmeg, two tablespoonfuls of mace, one of ground cloves, the same of allspice and salt, two and one-half pounds brown sugar, one quart of sweet cider, one pint of best brandy; let it stand at least twenty-four hours before making up in pie. If the mince meat made after this receipt is kept in stone jars, well covered up and in a cool place, it will keep all winter. If it becomes dried up add more liquor.

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