

Taylor of Johnson Heard From. CHAS. NEB., March 7 '92. EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:—I was most pleased with the harmony shown at the St. Louis conference. It shows that the different labor organizations throughout the country, begin to understand each other, and that the measures good for one are good for all. The question of the hour is, how best to still further consolidate the labor interests of the different states.

If I was asked to add to the platform of principles issued by the industrial conference, I should say a clause in the finance plank, giving strong assurance of the fixedness of the money volume at so much per capita, when it should once be brought up to sufficient to do the business of the country.

In my judgment it is the contraction and expansion of the money volume that does the mischief. But what of the future? It is easy to build platforms to the skies and for some men to make speeches on them, but the great trouble of the little paper vote (that is counted) speaks loudest after all. Where are they to come from? Is it not possible that we count too heavily on the south. In speaking of the south I mean the old slave holding south east of the Mississippi river.

The make up of society is peculiar there, and hard for a northern man to understand that has not had the opportunity to study the social and private life of its people. Northerners are apt to judge of southern life by short sojourns in the manufacturing centers where the lump has been leavened by northern energy. But the great voting population centers in the small towns and at the cross roads in the country.

The three classes remain as of old, viz: quality, poor whites and negroes, and the "Kunnei and Major sah," lead the set. The poor white is without education and can be depended on so far as the set goes, while the "nigger" does not count, at least his vote does not.

"The Kunnei and Major" are democrats, and wedded to old tradition and custom, slow to adopt new ideas, whether the idea be in the shape of a plot or a party. To vote outside of the set has meant social ostracism in these states. But there is a hope for us there. The Colonel and the Major are growing old. New timber is coming on and some of it begins to catch glimpses of grander industrial possibilities.

Some wonder why the north goes ahead of the south, why Boston, New York and Chicago grow, while Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans stand still. And yet some bold ones begin to wonder if the democratic party has done its best by them.

Yet it is a fact that the democratic party leaders still count on their solid south. While the republicans are frightened for fear that the new party will get a northern state or two and leave them in the lurch.

But I wished especially to write you of this: It seems to me that our leaders should use every endeavor to spread the better understanding of our principles in the eastern states.

The old party crowd are raising the cry that this is a move to down eastern manufactures, the west against the east. The bloody shirt business is played out. The south begins to understand the north. Now they will array the east against the west. I speak knowingly having traveled three months last fall through New York and New England visiting more than thirty manufacturing towns and mixing with different classes of people. Among all classes of laborers I found an undertone of discontent. While the factories were fairly active, still the operatives complain of low wages as compared with prices of supplies. Prices of meats especially were complained of as exorbitant.

Loin steak at the better shops in Boston was 28cts per lb. While a poorer grade of meat in factory towns was selling at 18 to 22cts per pound.

The old party crowd, while in good health they could just get a living but not hope to build them homes or better their condition. When I spoke to these laborers, of the people's party and Farmers' Alliance, I found them very slow to express any opinion while in company.

But many of them would come to me alone to ask the real meaning of the movement. They said their foreman and mill owners told them on all occasions that the Farmers' Alliance was a move to down eastern manufactures and asked if it was so. When I showed them the principles of the new party as well as I could they approved every time and said they would be in for it.

I found the eastern papers either ignored the new party entirely or sneered at and ridiculed it. I even could not find out last fall from eastern papers how the election had gone in this state, the independents being counted in with the democrats.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

THE FARMER MAY PROFIT BY THESE SUGGESTIONS.

How to Make a Hot Bed—A New Clover Truth—Testing Grass and Clover Seed—A Calf Feeding Experiment.

How to Make a Hot Bed.
A correspondent to the Kansas Farmer says that to make a hot bed, it is best to excavate a place to the depth of one spad, and the size of the bed, which is usually six by twelve feet. Haul fresh horse manure, that which has never went through fermentation, or been rained on; unload beside the intended bed, making a compost heap. In a few days it will show fermentation, then make the bed, by scattering the manure evenly in the pit and tramping it very compact, to the depth of 12 to 18 inches; then make a frame of good boards, let the front or south board be 12 inches wide, and the back or north board 14 inches. This will give the sash about the right pitch. By using 12-foot timber and six feet for the ends, three sashes four feet wide will just cover it. After the frame is put on square, put in about six or eight inches of good garden soil. With this should be mixed some old and rotten manure, so it will not bake, put on the sash and examine in a few days as to the amount of heat. After the most violent heat has passed off, and the temperature has gone to about 90 degrees, then it is ready for planting. If radishes and lettuce are to be planted frequent airing on warm days is necessary. Tomatoes, peppers and egg plants need more heat. Cabbage needs about the same treatment as lettuce. Watering must be attended to whenever the soil appears to be getting dry, but the most attention should be given to airing to prevent the plants from drawing up and getting shabby or spindling. At the approach of night, the beds must be covered with boards or straw, or the cold will penetrate through the glass and kill the plants.

A New Clover Truth.
There are some things, we believe, about clover, says the Homestead, that we have never yet published because we have not practically demonstrated their truth on our farms. For example a farmer from northwestern Iowa was in the office a short time since complaining that although his clover did well on new lands for a few weeks, it finally died out as if starved. We asked him if he had any spot on his farm where clover succeeded and he replied that it had grown luxuriantly in his orchard for 10 years. We advised him to resow his field next March as soon as the ground was dry, plow up a corner of his orchard, harrow it fine and sow part of his field with this fine dirt as if he was sowing it to oats, but to do this purely as an experiment. We did not know then that this had ever been tried, but inferred it from some European experiments. Since that we find that the question of sowing the microbe has been made the subject of exhaustive experiments in Germany, and with the most complete success. It has been there demonstrated that while clover will grow without the microbe it will grow only on lands that have great superabundance of nitrogen; that under these circumstances it will not form tubercles on the roots, while it will grow equally well on poor land, provided the microbe is sown either with clover soil or with water that has been through clover soil. If, however, the water is cold it will not grow. Suppose we had made this statement a year ago, it would have been considered, by sensible farmers, as cranky to an extreme, and yet it would have only stated what is now a demonstrated scientific fact.

Testing Grass and Clover Seed.
It is well to test grass and clover seed, not only to determine if the vitality of the seed is impaired, but also to ascertain if it is adulterated with seeds of weeds or noxious grasses. Testing should never be neglected, for it is the seed not suspected that does the harm. Select a number of seeds large enough to make the test—at least 100. Count carefully. Place the seeds between woolen cloths moistened with tepid water. The cloths should be boiled after they are used, and the plate or pan in which they are laid should be scalded to avoid the growth of fungi or mould. For the same reason, only recently boiled water should be used for moistening the cloths. At least two cloths should be laid upon the plate. Then the seed is distributed over them, and covered with another cloth. If the reader can cover the plate with glass, he should do so, as this will retard evaporation and protect the cloths from floating germs. Under these conditions and a temperature of 70 to 80 degrees Fahr., good seed will germinate within 10 days. Seeds of little vitality may germinate after ten days, but they should not be counted in the test, as they would probably fail to germinate under field conditions. Seeds should not be used when more than 10 per cent fail to germinate, if better seed can be procured in time for testing and sowing—American Agriculturist.

The Use of Fertilizers.
If a proper rotation is pursued ordinary farm crops can be grown indefinitely where only mineral fertilizers, chiefly phosphate, are applied directly to the soil. This rotation includes frequent applications of clover as green manure. It has been tried on land rich in mineral plant food for many years without decreasing the crop of grain. It would not do for growing corn, potatoes or garden vegetables. In all of these clover alone is too slow a manure, but for wheat on land rich in phosphate the biennial clover crop has been found sufficient.

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Avoiding Potato Scab.
After a series of experiments, Prof. Bolley of the North Dakota station comes to the conclusion that he can avoid the production of scabby potatoes if he cannot entirely eradicate the disease. He finds no substantial evidence that any soil of whatsoever kind can in itself give origin to the disease. But the disease germ can and does remain in the ground from crop to crop for at least four years. Scabby or disease bearing seed tubers can and will under ordinary circumstances produce a diseased crop. But by soaking the seed tubers before planting in chemical solutions enabled him to raise an undiseased product from the scabbiest of seed where the ground was known to be free from the disease. Seed tubers free from the disease germs will in any soil, sand or muck, raise an undiseased produce, provided only that the soils themselves are free of the disease.

We Have Seen
A young man sell a good farm, turn merchant, break and die insolvent. A farmer spend so much time in town that there was nothing at home worth looking after. A worthy farmer's son idle away the prime of his life in dissipation and end his career in poverty. A farmer too self-conceited to mend his way and too obstinate to mend his footsteps. A poor boy grow rich by industry and good management, and a rich boy grow poor by idleness and dissipation. A man spend more money in folly than would support his family in comfort and independence. A farmer deliver a fine oration at the agricultural fair with his fence all down, fields overgrown with weeds, stock foraging on a neighbor's field and his taxes unpaid.—Indiana Farmer.

Corn Fodder.
We cut our corn fodder and find by so doing that it makes an excellent ration for dairy cows, says a writer in the National Stockman. We cure in the field. When dry it should be carefully housed. The old method of inviting dairy cows to dine on mud, snow and water with a little sprinkling of corn fodder, well tramped down and thoroughly mixed, is an insult to the brute creation. In cutting our fodder we usually use steam power. We have frequently cut by hand when steam has not been available, and we think it pays. It has been our practice to cut our feed for the past seven years, and we have reason to know that we save from one-third to one-half our feed. Feed is embodied cash and it is a farmer's mission to "grind it out."

How to Make Lambs Grow.
Ground oats, placed in a pen where the lambs can feed at a trough which the sheep cannot reach, with a liberal supply of milk from the ewes, will make lambs grow rapidly, and if they gain as they should they will reach the market a month sooner than if they depended on the ewes alone, and as this gain in time is an important point to keep in view for the high prices, every inducement should be made to keep the lambs feeding and growing, but the gain will not be rapid unless the lambs are well bred, nor will grades equal the pure breeds. The heaviest grades made have been with Oxford and shropshires. The main point to observe with the ewe is that of providing plenty of milk for her lamb.—Home and Farm.

Farm Hints.
The age of sheep can be told by its teeth. At one year it has two large teeth in the center of the jaw, and two more appear each year until the animal is five years old. After this the age of the sheep cannot be definitely decided. If the sheep appear to have taken cold and run at the nose, separate them from the others, give them warmer quarters, warm clean and well ventilated, and a warm bran mash daily and they will soon forget the catarrh. A noted potato grower of Chippewa county, Wis., says he can raise potatoes at a cost of six cents a bushel. Another man whose crops were double, raised them at a cost of 13 cents a bushel, growing 400 bushels on an acre, at a profit of \$100 per acre. Experiments made in England showed that the larger grains of wheat, obtained by sifting, sprouted sooner, grew more rapidly, made more straw, and on average 10 bushels of grain per acre, than did the small seeds sited out from the same lot. The wheat was also much heavier to the bushel and made a better flour.

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