

TO UNCLE JERRY RUSK.

EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE FARMERS.

Eighty-five Cents for a Cow-hide and Three Dollars for a Pair of Shoes.

Uncle Jerry Invited to Visit Gosper Co. And Fill Up on Sour Knead.

BRETMARD, Neb., Nov. 17, 1891.

DEAR UNCLE:—I think it was about one year ago I wrote you in relation to the financial depression that is raging among the laboring and agricultural classes throughout the nation. In your reply you stated that extravagance on the part of the farmers was largely the cause. At that time, Jerry, I thought that you were either mistaken or trying to fool some body, but I have come to the conclusion after careful consideration and investigation that you are about right. The farmers in this section of the country are extravagant and there is no use for that howling mob of irresponsible agitators and jabbering idiots to say they are not. They don't get much money out here and what they do they scatter to the four winds of heaven. One farmer took a cow hide to town and sold it for eighty-five cents and then went across the street and paid \$3 for his wife a pair of shoes. Yes, Jerry, extravagance is what is the matter with the farmer. Many of them are paying 24 per cent for the use of money, while they (if they are the government) are loaning it to the banks at one per cent. Now, Uncle, you know enough about business to know that if there were no other cause this alone would cause great suffering among them. But they are extravagant in many ways. They pay about twice as much for railroad transportation as they need to. Our R. R. tariff here in Neb. is about twice as much as it is in Iowa. We have a board of transportation here, but they are republicans and the republican party is in favor of high tariffs, railroads not excepted. After trying, but failing to reduce the R. R. tariff through the R. R. party we organized a new party and made the reduction of the R. R. tariff one of the most prominent features in the platform, thinking of course that all farmers and merchants at least were in favor of a just and equitable reduction of the R. R. tariff, and imagine our horror and chagrin, when a great many merchants who had done the most grumbling about R. R. extortion, turned their backs upon us and called us a howling mob of irresponsible agitators and political mountebanks. Now Jerry I do not wish you to understand that the farmers are any larger fools than Thompson's mob, but I will be just "grim squizzed" if some of them did not actually vote for the republican party and high R. R. tariff. Extravagant? Yes, sir. Some farmers actually went to the polls for the sole purpose of voting it upon themselves. Yes, Uncle, there are dozens of farmers in this state that are so extravagant that they would sooner pay a high R. R. tariff than a low one. Now they can't afford it, for I see by our county paper that there are 732 farms and a number of town lots advertised to be sold for taxes in this county, and at this is a small county, only casted at the last election about 600 votes. Just think of it Uncle, more farms advertised to be sold by the sheriff than votes cast in the county, and when I tell you that nearly one third of these votes were cast for the R. R. party I believe you will agree with me that the story of Thompson's mob sinks into oblivion. They are also discriminating in their extravagance, and I notice that they generally discriminate against themselves. They pay Mrs. Garfield a pension of \$5,000 per year while they only pay an old hay-seed that bared his breast to the deadly missiles of war in defense of his country, in most cases from \$3 to \$12 per month. I am not kicking, Uncle, about Mrs. Garfield's pension, but I do say she is no more entitled to a \$5,000 pension than my wife whose father's bones lie bleaching in the swamps of Georgia. Now, Jerry, I trust you will do all you can to keep the farmers from being any more extravagant. Of course it is your bounden duty as secretary of agriculture to vote and work for the agricultural ticket. I was in hopes you would have called to see me when you were at Omaha and Grand Island some time ago, but I suppose the board of trade at Omaha took up so much of your valuable time in showing you the agricultural facilities of that burg that you hardly had time. These boards of trade must be awful queer agricultural societies. Hastings is ornamented with one that takes great interest in agriculture. Last winter the legislature passed a bill that the farmers of this state were very much interested in. I think it was something about the railroads. No sooner had the news reached Hastings than a meeting of the board of trade was called and resolutions passed denouncing the action of the legislature and petitioning the Irishman to veto said bill. Well, Jerry, the power of the board of trade and the Irishman was greater than the legislature, so the bill was not placed upon our statute books. These boards of trade must be yet more interested in themselves than they are wonderful expensive to the farmers. I hope the next time you come soaring around in these parts you will come and see me, and if one of those boards of trade should find you in its loving arms again just tell them that you are the secretary of agriculture on your way to Gosper county to see a man that is engaged in raising corn and pumpkins, and that they will have to unfold. I live in a sod house, but of course that would make no difference to you providing you had plenty to eat. I have just opened a fresh barrel of krait and if you will come you shall have all you can hold if it takes the whole barrel. This of course is a very liberal proposition for me to make but I am a farmer and you know the farmers are rather inclined to be liberal and extravagant in their habits, so come right along and I will also show that we can afford to reduce the tariff far below the present figure. W. WINSLOW.

Lower Wages in America.

Politicians work many schemes. In this country it is claimed that the tariff keeps wages higher in America. It may keep up the wages of politicians, but the following figures will show that children and adults in free trade England are paid better than they are here, and will also show that we can afford to reduce the tariff far below the present figure. Children in England are paid in the mines 52 cents per day of 9 1/2 hours,

while in West Virginia they only get 50 cents for a 10-hour day.

In the cotton goods industries children in England get 45 cents for a 10-hour day, while in New York they get but 41 cents for an 11-hour day. In the following states they also get less than the English rate, besides working one hour longer: Connecticut, North Carolina and Georgia.

The rate paid to adult male hands in the cotton goods industries in England averages \$1.17 per day of 10 hours each, while in Vermont the rate is \$1.15, in North Carolina 96 cents, and in Georgia \$1.02. Two cents in Delaware is \$1.19, just two cents over the English rate, and in New York it is \$1.23, but all the American rates are for an 11 hours day. If the New York operative worked 10 hours, or one-eighth less than he does, and if he was paid that much less, he would get but \$1.12 per day.

In other words, while the English operatives average \$1.17 per day, the New York operative averages only \$1.11 per day, which shows that the Englishman actually gets over half a cent per hour more than the New Yorker.

The English rate of wages in metals and metallic goods is \$1.34 for an 11 hours day, while for a 12 hours day the rate in Maryland is \$1.24 and in Alabama \$1.29.

These facts are from the report of the United States commissioner of labor.—Progressive Farmer.

BRITISH GOLD.

Its Power a Menace to the Freedom Our Fore-Fathers Won.

The influence of British gold in the affairs of men and nations has long been a subject of remark and study, but the average American citizen scarcely allows himself to think, while reading of some wonderful conquest, which English capital has made, that this country can never be affected thereby, and he seems perfectly oblivious to the alarming facts that surround him. It was the Shylock of Lombard street, London, who first suggested a bonded war debt. He depreciated greenbacks below gold; he in company with his Wall street cousins then bought greenbacks with gold at from 47 to 60 cents on the dollar, and immediately reinvested the depreciated greenbacks in United States bonds dollar for dollar. These bonds were payable in legal-tender notes (greenbacks) interest and principal. The money sharks, not content with the profit made in buying greenbacks at a discount, and not content with their success in transforming non-interest bearing notes into interest-bearing bonds, set themselves to work to change the contract as set forth in the face of the bonds themselves, and they actually succeeded in inducing the so-called representatives of the people in congress to pass an act making these very bonds purchased with depreciated greenbacks payable principal and interest in coin. And it has been freely charged, and the charge is backed by much direct and circumstantial proof, that some of the money of a London Jew went to pay American statesmen for this service. Not content with his success in doubling his wealth, while at the same time he doubled the burden on our agriculturists and laborers, the Lombard street banker scores another triumph over American productive labor and in favor of shrewd financial policy by sending his agent to this country with half a million in his pocket with instructions to secure the demonetization of silver and thus establish his bonds on a gold basis. The scheme, be it told to our shame, succeeded, and although it is said there is not nor never was a United States bond sold by the government for gold, every one held by a broker or money changer in any part of the world has to be paid in gold. The British financiers have not stopped here. To-day they own land enough in this country to make three such states as Mississippi if it lay in a body; they own large interests, and in some instances controlling stocks in many of our most important railroad lines and other industrial enterprises in this country. They are said to have almost a monopoly of the grain elevator business, requiring a large amount of capital. They have our country flooded with mortgage and loan associations, through the operations of which they are rapidly acquiring control of large amounts of land in every state almost in the Union, and which bids fair to absorb in a few years our entire landed estate. They dictate eviction laws of many of the states now, and they are so summary that it is easier to evict a family in Kansas to-day than in Ireland. A little more than 100 years ago our fathers whipped these fellows and conquered for us the grandest country on the globe, but at the rate they have progressed in the past thirty years in the business of corrupting our legislation with their gold, it cannot be long before they will own our people body and soul. When the power of money to oppress is extended a little further the conditions above foreshadowed will be reached, and then the people of this country become serfs and slaves, and the British bondholders, land speculators and usurers are our masters. This is no fancy picture, but the inevitable result of the outrageous system of finance and legislation which has cursed this country for the past thirty years, and which must ere long overthrow the liberty of the people if not speedily checked. The farmers would do it if aided, or even left alone by the business and professional men of this country, but unfortunately many of them seem to have a prejudice against anything proposed by a "chryseid" and in a financial independence with the influence and votes against the interest of their countrymen. Whether the organized wealth producers of the country will be able to preserve a government of the people, or whether the hiring tools of New and Old England will hold them in subjection and finally overthrow the liberties of the masses is a question to decide much sooner than the corrupt politicians will admit, or many good and patriotic men suppose.—The New Era.

A Yolo, Cal., farmer turned a band of aules and horses into a patch that had been planted to cantaloupes. There was quite a quantity of the fruit left, and the animals took great fancy to it. As a result there were seven dead mules and one dead horse.

Iron is to be made at Chattanooga by an electrical process.

THE ALLIANCE.

The Farmers Union: Although the different mercantile agencies report prosperous times the facts warrant that statement only so far as it relates to coupon clippers and loan brokers. From all over the land comes the reports of failures, and in many instances even banks are included.

The Southern Mercury: To demand of a member of the Farmer's Alliance that he renounce the principles of the organization to which he has voluntarily attached himself before he will be recognized by the bosses of any political party, is an insult to his manhood. Such a demand never emanated from a Democrat, nor was submitted to by one worthy of the name of a freeman.

The Virginia Alliance News: A half dozen men have been running political conventions and dictating to the people whom they should vote for in the past, and now when the people see fit to name their own candidates, these self constituted leaders get way up in G, and say that it is preposterous for several hundred votes to dictate to the majority. Oh! come off and be consistent.

Pioneer Exponent: The Alliance and the people have everything to gain and nothing to lose by a full, fair and honest investigation of the Omaha demands in broad open daylight with open doors, and it courts such an investigation. The Alliance supporters in Comanche county have done more in one month to promote the full, fair and free discussion than the so-called democracy ever did.

The Iowa Tribune: An idea of the small amount of money really in active circulation among the people may be gathered when it is known that the amount of standard silver dollars outside of the treasury Oct. 1 was \$10,194,175 subsidiary silver, \$59,664,446; total, silver in circulation, \$118,858,621,—less than \$2 per capita. When it is considered how large a percentage of the daily transactions of the people are conducted with silver coin, the real state of the money famine will be understood.

The Montezuma Record: Don't be caught by the "State bank" fraud proposed by eminent Democratic statesmen and pretended friendly papers. Our money must be full legal tender government money. The national bank system is far preferable to State bank frauds. The state bank cry is a side issue to catch the Alliance with and thus enable the money power to keep its death hold on the people. It is such a palpable fraud that we think it will not deceive many, but its intention is to deceive and rob the people.

The Peninsula Farmer: There is now an open field in the cause of true journalism for a rival to the Associated Press in the matter of news dispatches. It is not only untrue about the Alliance, but a vast mass of sensationalism and manufactured incidents which are pure romance and never happened, are piled off upon the public. Our big dailies had better publish with less pages and more truth in their make-up, or there will come a journalistic cyclone one of these days and paralyzers of truth will get sent to kingdom come by a popular revolt against fiction for fact in their newspapers. "All people can't be fooled all the time."

The Alliance Vindicator: In spite of the opposition to our order and the war upon its officers by the politicians and the plutocratic press, the Alliance still lives, and moves, and grows, and is destined to make the world feel the weight of its mighty tread. If one were to believe what he reads from the partisan press, he would think the Alliance had fallen to pieces, by reason of the heavy weights about its neck, and the corrupt, designing, thieving, scheming, unprincipled demagogic officers at its head. We hear them say the sub-treasury scheme is dead, the Alliance had to drop it. The facts are: Every state Alliance that has convened this fall has adopted it with practically a unanimous vote. They say the officers are corrupt, but the Alliance don't believe. There has not been a resolution passed in any state Alliance condemning any officer whom they have pointed out; but the very men they landed to the skies have been condemned as unworthy of our trust and confidence.

The Alliance Herald: The Alliance is composed of machine Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Third Party men. As an organization it is not in partisan politics, that is to say, it does not espouse any party. It espouses measures and advocates purposes. It has aims, and seeks to accomplish them. It has a mission, and expects to fulfill it. It came into existence at the demand of inexorable necessity. It continues in existence and will ever continue to live, because the urgency of the necessity is so great and exacting that the members who compose it are bound by the ties of interest, they are fastened to it by a condition that compels them to stick, to persevere and to make any sacrifice for its success. This condition has jeopardized their homes, has imperiled the liberty of their children and has rendered it impossible for them to attain prosperity. The census report on the mortgage indebtedness of the country shows the condition that has jeopardized their homes. The fact that they are compelled to sell products at cost of production shows the impossibility of extricating themselves from this condition, without a change of systems. The change of systems is the purpose. The change of condition is its mission.

The Alliance Advocate: When America is made the dumping ground for the world's supply of silver, the world at large will take an even change therefor in American products at our price. By all means let the silver come, and let it be coined into honest dollars, and the farmers will use them in paying off their mortgages and restoring their heritage to its former eminence in American affairs.

The average French family embraces the members and the average Irish family five. In England the average number of members of a family is four.

THE FARM AND STABLE.

INTERESTING MATTERS FOR RURAL READERS.

Sowing After Plowing—Manuring the Garden—Charcoal in the Poultry Yard—Be Gentle With the Cows—Faint Hints.

Land needs rest. Soil requires stirring and then absolute rest. This is one of the secrets of successful farming. Business men of this century never take rest, and the farmers wish to run their land along in the same way. They demand that it should be paying all of the time, and it seems only to be paying when it is growing something. Now land is often paying the best interest on itself when it is resting absolutely.

Western farm lands is not lack of richness and fertility, strictly speaking, but the lack of readily available plant food. The food is in the soil in abundance, but it is not yet ready for the plants to use. All vegetables have to decompose and then pass through a chemical process and mix with the soil to be in the best condition to feed the plants. This process is performed by the air, rain and sunshine. These three must combine to bring the land into the proper condition for seeds.

In the fall the corn-stubble field, or the grass lot is turned over with the plow, and the wheat sown upon it immediately. In the first place the corn has made a heavy demand upon the strength of the soil, and has probably exhausted all of the available plant food in it. It is not reasonable then to suppose that the wheat can be grown immediately on the same land. More manure and fertilizers? No, that is not what the soil needs. It is rest. A two weeks' rest will do more good to it than tons of fertilizers. Plow the soil thoroughly, and then let it rest so that the action of the sun, rain and air may go on uninterrupted. The particles of soil are loosely thrown together, and the air gets far down into the subsoil. The rains soak through it, and the sun warms and heats it by turns. No time is so good for this as the September sun and weather. The sun is still hot, and even during the early part of October, and the cool, moist nights give the necessary moisture. Decomposition and nitric fixation go on rapidly, and the soil improves as rapidly under this rest as a worn-out bookkeeper does when left in the country to do nothing but rest in the summer time.

Even grass land is greatly improved by this process which makes food available to plants. Above all do not plow to-day and sow to-morrow. The soil is given no chance then to recuperate.

Manuring the Garden.

It is very necessary to keep the garden rich, and if properly managed two crops and sometimes more can be raised in one season; it is important that care be taken to fertilize if necessary every year. While commercial fertilizers can be used to some extent, yet well rotted animal manure must be the principal dependence, especially on the farm. It is not good economy to use fresh manure for two reasons: One is that it contains more or less weed seeds, and the other is that it is not in an available condition, and will be of little benefit until rotted and it will interfere more or less with the preparation of the soil and the cultivation of the crops. When it can be done without interfering too much with the other work, fall is a good time to apply manure.

Unless the ground is so sloping that it will be injured considerably by washing during the winter, it is nearly always best to clear up thoroughly in the fall after the crops have all matured and then plow deep and thorough. Then late in the fall or early winter, before the ground freezes too hard to work well, have out a good application of manure, having it well rotted and finely scattered evenly over the surface and then with a good harrow or cultivator, working well into the soil. This is a better plan as there is less loss by bleaching or evaporation with the manure worked well into the soil, than if left on the surface. Ordinarily there is little risk of getting the soil too rich in the garden, so that a good application can nearly always be given with benefit; and by spreading a good percent of the soluble portions will be taken up and retained by the soil in a condition to be used by the growing plants, much more so than will be done if the manure is not applied until in the spring and with garden crops it is quite an item to have the manure worked thoroughly into the soil.

See to the Farm Implements.

Now the working of farm crops are over the implements should all be collected and put under shelter. One month of exposure now is worse and will do more injury to farm tools than three in winter. Decay takes place faster now than in winter, as the change of temperature and other conditions are not so great or frequent in winter. It is not at all times convenient for the farmer to care for farm tools at the proper time, and the time spent in taking care of them might sometimes be more valuable than the loss by exposure, but this is the exception not the rule. Not only is there a loss by exposure, but many times these implements are unexpectedly needed and are to be hunted up, which consumes valuable time, and when found are in a poor condition for use.

Collect them all up and see that they are properly arranged, the parts all well adjusted just ready for use, cleanse them from dirt that may be adhering to any part of them. The wood parts will decay more if the dirt is left on, but though the dirt be dirt when put away it will absorb moisture and rot the wood. Give all the iron parts a good oiling and wash the wood parts and give a coat of paint. This will shield the wood from all atmospheric changes through the winter. All the screws, nuts and other parts that may be wanted to move, or any part that wears bright from rubbing in use should be oiled so that the atmosphere will not have any effect. Implements treated this way will last longer and do better work than if put away just as last

used. It is needless that the farmer lessen his expenses as much as possible in farm implements.

Be Gentle With the Cows.

A cow is largely a creature of habit, and will readily accommodate herself to the conditions under which she is placed. It should be borne in mind, however, that any undue excitement tends to lessen her butter productiveness, and therefore should be avoided. If a cow is chased with a dog, hounded here and there, continually bothered by steers or mischievous colts, or by both, and confined at night in a small yard, and devoured by mosquitoes, a small pail will hold her milk. But place the same cow in comfortable surroundings, amongst companions of her own gentle kind, away from the annoyance of other animals; put her in a clean stable, out of the reach of flies at milking time, and then turn her out to enjoy a hearty meal of dewy grass, and see if, under these altered conditions, the same pail will hold what milk she gives.

Cows should be treated with the utmost kindness. The man who, on the slightest provocation, will strike or kick a cow, is more deserving of the same treatment than of being paid wages. In fact an ill tempered man or woman is a decided damage around a cow yard. Even when a dangerous cow is found there is no occasion to raise a disturbance with her. Dry her up and prepare her for the butcher; life is too short and precious to bother with a mean cow.

Caring for Seed.

One of the most important items with seed during the winter is to keep it dry. Nearly all kinds of seed will withstand considerable cold without injury if dry, but if wet, the vitality will often be considerably injured. In nearly all cases corn, cane, or other kinds, whether garden or field, it will be found a good plan to spread out and dry thoroughly before storing away, and then, by storing in a dry place, they can be kept in a good condition. It is not dry cold, but wet cold that injures. In nearly all cases seed should be selected in the fall and kept separate. A better quality can nearly always be secured and this is important. And after it is selected, then it should be stored in a way to keep it in the best condition. It is better to purchase seed than to risk the crops with those of an uncertain quality; but if they are to be sowed from what is grown on the farm, select in good season and store so as to keep in the best condition at least.

Skill in Feeding.

There is much in a farmer knowing when a pig is well fed. It is very convenient to have a pig fed in such a way that it will not gorge itself, although feed is lying by it all the time. But we are satisfied that there is no profit in this sort of convenience. The hog gets tired of so much sameness; food always at the nose becomes stale. If fresh at every feeding, and appetite prompts, it is eaten with a relish. It requires much practice and skill on the part of a farmer to know when a hog has the correct ration. The most successful feeder we know notes the changes in the weather and its influence on the appetite, and portions out the feed accordingly. On a rising temperature the ration is decreased, and vice versa. Failing to do this his hogs have cloved when the temperature ran high, causing a loss of thrift and gain for a few days. This should always be guarded against.—National Stockman and Farmer.

Charcoal in the Poultry Yard.

When freely used in the poultry yard, charcoal is of great value. If ground or pounded fine and fed to the fowls in their soft food," says one who has had experience, "it materially aids digestion and cleanses the system of impurities. As it acts upon the blood, it acts upon the life of the fowl. When the blood is thick and clotty, a dull, sick chicken will soon follow. Thin blood always means vigorous circulation, and on good circulation of the blood health largely depends. If your fowls lack activity they need something to stir the blood from its sluggishness. We have every confidence in charcoal, and advise the farmer to barrel some for feeding to his poultry. Keep it in a dry place, and when needed, grind or pound fine and mix with soft food."

Farm Hints.

Do not sell the best pigs. Do not let cuckle burs mature seed. Mulch only after the ground is frozen. Do not leave cabbage or turnipstout too late. Be sure there is plenty of light in the horse and cow stables. Head work on the farm is as much wanted as hand work. Give the colts plenty of room to exercise if you want bone and muscle. In nearly all cases the most restless cow will prove the most profitable. Generally now the quicker the hogs are fattened and marketed the better the profit.

If the soil is dry, it will be a good plan to puddle the roots of the trees before setting them out. Under ordinary conditions there is no economy in cribbing the corn with the shuck on. In commencing to feed in the fall use what is most easily damaged first. Winter is by far the best time on the majority of farms to make manure if properly managed. Manure can not contain anything not in the food supplied. The quality of the manure depends largely upon the feed. When the potatoes are dry is the best time to select seeds; take from the most prolific hills. Before the corn is fully matured is the best time to select seed for next year's planting. When fruit or vegetables are stored in the cellar keep the doors open at night till cold weather sets in.

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