

not our representatives but his supporters? Though so devoted to party, what does party do for us in return? Are not our political parties—I might add political party newspapers—mere misleaders, which contrive to divide our ranks, so we, instead of being co-workers aiming at our own and our country's welfare, are placed one against the other, so that the influence we might exert is not brought to bear, and we are simply tools in the hands of designing politicians. We have class legislation but not class representation. It becomes us, therefore, as thoughtful, intelligent men, to rise up in our united strength, select from our ranks those who have won our confidence in private life by their integrity and worth, men of knowledge and experience who are cognizant of our requirements, sent unpledged to any leader, who will prove to be representatives in practice as well as in name.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Farmers Planning to Control Prices.

A convention of farmers of the Mississippi Valley was held at St. Louis recently, the object of which was ostensibly to secure organization and co-operation among farmers expected to tend to the control or regulation of prices of leading products. This is understood to relate more particularly to wheat than other crops, for the reason that this grain is conspicuous as a speculative and export product.

How much can be done, if anything, in the real interest of the producing class by such efforts at organization, and the execution of its plans, is problematical? It is a broad question. The complaint of low prices appears to be mainly in regard to products of which the country has a surplus for export. Thus the value of that which is consumed at home is more or less regulated by prices obtainable for the surplus. One speaker went so far as to argue to the effect that low prices in this country do not promote exports of the surplus. This seems to be a singular proposition. The prevailing thought is that withholding of products at prices which foreign markets can and will pay in comparison with supplies otherwise available tends to inconvenient accumulation and unsatisfactory markets at home, while the buying period for the surplus is being shortened and the requiring markets are obtaining the needed supplies from other portions of the world, where perhaps the consumption of the particular product is being more or less curtailed by the substitution of something else in its place.

One speaker argued that the farmer should sell his produce as he buys his groceries—in instalments—thus preventing unusual excess of offerings in commercial channels. This may be all very good in theory, but the conditions and surroundings of the farming class are so varied that this style of regulation can not be relied upon to remedy the evil of low prices resulting from large accumulations in warehouses.

The farmer, as a class, who has confined his enterprise to his own calling and refrained from endeavoring to secure something for nothing by entering into marginal trading on the speculative exchanges, is to day in the enjoyment of more of privileges than at any former period in the history of this country. But it is in order to consider means wherewith his condition may be bettered, and by which he may not only secure a just return for the result of his toil, but also by which he may effect purchases of what he must buy without undue contribution to maintain discriminating protection to other industrial lines. The organization effected at St. Louis may do but little in attaining the object in view, but it is to be hoped that its influence will be felt beneficially, by encouraging thought and discussion upon such questions.

Sound Sense.

Mr. Baker, of Baker Homestead, N. Y., says:

"While so many advocate the silo for the large dairyman, it looks to be more for the small farmer, for if he was to cut his fields and put them in a silo, or in other words, soil his stock, no weeds may be allowed to go to seed, and many weeds while young and tender, would be made available."

"I think that three-fifths of the farmers waste one-third of their feed after it has grown in various ways, and the practice of letting stock roam over a rich pasture, except to trample down the grass to again enrich the soil for future crops, is wasteful. I think the average American farmer is too extravagant to make money. When we learn to save our forage and manure as we should, then we will be able to laugh at hard times."

"It seems to me cruel to see a cow have to work hard all day in the pasture to get enough to eat, when the flies are so numerous that she does not have a moment's peace, then keep her perhaps in a filthy yard at night without anything to eat. I think that when we learn that the least the cow does except to convert what we feed her into milk, the better we will be off, or in other words, when we cut the feed and bring it to our stock, in comfortable yards or stables, and save the manure, we will have no need of commercial fertilizers."

Hired Help.

Many of the best farmers started, perhaps, as boys at \$3 per month, and rose to \$20, \$25 or \$30 per month, saving all the time till they could purchase homesteads of their own. Those men who have an ambition to push themselves forward to independence will prove profitable men at advanced rates over the men whose highest ambition is to attend the neighborhood dances, be away when they please, and have a drunk every month. A way exists to exterminate the latter class, viz., do not hire them. Have no man at work for you who is not temperate, or will not promise to abstain from "fire-water" while in your employ. Then, when you get a good man, do not treat him so that he will escape as soon as his time is up, and act toward you while he stays as though you and yours were his personal enemies. Take an interest in him and he will take an interest in you.

There is nothing like a systematic change of rations for hired men, as well as for beasts or fowls. Feed your men as well as you feed yourself. Give a good room, a good bed, clean towels, often, first-class reading matter, and if they wish, provide means and opportunity for attending church. Again, the average farmer hardly ever keeps a hand more than eight months of a year, and then makes a change. This is a mistake, and it is what ails a great many men who would be first-class were it not for the fact that they have worked in so many places as to have half learned a dozen farmers' methods of doing farm work. When you get a good hand keep him year after year, and advance his pay a little from time to time—enough to stimulate his aspirations and keep him alive to your interests as well as his own case.—[The Country Gentleman.]

Hoard's Dairyman says Jas. Cheeseman's head is entirely level, when he says there is nothing that will more efficiently promote improvement in breeding and feeding good cows than the universal introduction of milk testing, both on the farms and at factories. Tests on the farm will show the farmer which of his cows are beating him out of a useless living, and tests at the factory will of a usefully divide the money, and at the same time it will put the farmer on the track for individual tests in his own herd; for he will naturally be as anxious to find out the thieves, if he has lost property through stealing. It is the indifference of ignorance that both half starves and spares many a cow.

Garden and Orchard.

A Chapter on Apples.

BY G. C. CASTON.

Among all the kinds of fruit the farmer can grow, there is none adapted to such a variety of uses as the apple; and a good orchard of well selected apple trees is one of the most valuable appurtenances of the farm. One can not have too many, if they are of the right sort. With the early kinds it will pay to select the best, and ship to the city markets in baskets, or other small, neat packages, and the next best quality in barrels. The fall and winter varieties should be packed in good barrels, and if properly selected and well packed, they will pay. The best winter apples are now worth \$3 to \$3.25 per barrel in Toronto and Montreal. Canadian apples are bringing fancy prices in the Old Country markets. This is a pleasing contrast to the low prices of last year, which was owing partly to the immense crop, whereby the markets were glutted, and in no small part due to careless packing and selection of the fruit. A farmer would not think of taking his wheat to market without cleaning it to take out the inferior stuff. And yet that is what many do with their apples, good and bad are thrown in the barrel together, and this spoils the sale of the whole lot.

I would like to impress upon those who have orchards coming into bearing, and who are likely to have apples to sell in the future, the importance of this fact, that it will always pay, in putting up fruit for sale, to select the best, and be sure that the middle of the barrel is the same as the ends; and put here a few hints as to varieties that bring the best prices. Mr. L. Woolverton, Grimaby, Secretary of the Fruit Growers' Association, and one of the best authorities in the province on fruit culture, says in the Horticulturist: "How profitable an orchard would be if planted with such varieties as Astrachan, Duchess, Gravenstein, Cranberry Pippin, King and Wealthy, all fancy apples, clear of this troublesome scab, and commanding the very highest prices in both our home and foreign markets * * * *"

Many of what used to be considered the best varieties, have become almost worthless on account of the scab, which is now so prevalent, and which seems to be getting worse instead of decreasing. There is nothing so ruinous to the value of the apple as this fungoid growth; therefore, we should select varieties that are free from this pest. It is a notable fact, that nearly all the Russian varieties are free from the scab, and it is the firm, clear skinned apples that will bring the best prices. But from my own experience, I would amend Mr. Woolverton's list by striking out the Astrachan and adding the Pewaukee. It being a seedling of Duchess, possesses many of the good qualities of its parent, and has the advantage of being a winter apple. While I have found the Astrachan to be irregular in size, and also in ripening, and when ripe will not keep a week, and with us often affected with scab.

With regard to the hardness of the clear-skinned varieties, the Duchess stands unrivaled, while the Wealthy and Pewaukee come next. The King of Tompkins is not a hardy variety, and as a nursery tree will not stand the climate of our northern counties. But I have proved, by experience, that it can be successfully grown here by top grafting it into hardy native seed-