

# THE MONTHLY FARMERS' ADVOCATE

PERSEVERE & SUCCEED

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## AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

We have often alluded to our meagre agricultural information. Its importance toward the farming interest seems to be underrated. We have elaborate reports of the fiscal condition of the country, but our leading interest is neglected. Our fisheries, timber limits and mineral resources engross the attention of our legislators, and the industry of the printer is tasked, and the nation taxed to give reliable information concerning these minor sources of revenue. We by no means object to this but think it a wise procedure, yet cannot but think that as an agricultural people we should have more definite means of comprehending the amount sown and the average yield. Politicians may grow eloquent over our gold mines, our noble forests, but still the fact is plain that our permanent wealth is in the proper cultivation of the soil. Present appearances seem to indicate that more energy will characterize the New Board than belonged to the Old. We trust that such a system will be adopted as will enable us to learn from year to year the progress the country is making in agricultural development. The machinery of the Agricultural Department of the United States is far superior to our own. It has established communications for the purpose of exchange of rare seeds, plants and trees with the leading botanical gardens of the civilized world. Every year seeds and cuttings are distributed for the purpose of being tested among the most intelligent farmers of the various sections adapted for their culture. The number of packages distributed last year amounted to 592,393, including over 30,000 sacks of winter wheat imported by the Commissioners. The following tabular statement shows the total yield and money value of the crops named for the States of the Union:

	Total yield.	Value.
Indian corn, bushels.	768,320,000	\$610,948,390
Wheat	212,441,400	424,706,460
Rye	23,181,000	32,499,700
Oats	278,698,000	172,472,970
Barley	25,727,000	22,850,130
Buckwheat	21,359,000	23,469,650
Potatoes	97,783,000	89,276,839
Tobacco, pounds	313,724,000	41,283,481
Hay, tons	26,277,000	372,864,670
Cotton, bales	2,450,000	240,000,000
		\$2,027,462,231

The following shows the average yield per acre for the whole country:

Indian corn (bu)	23	Buckwheat	17
Wheat	11.5	Potatoes	82
Rye	13.5	Tobacco (lbs)	631
Oats	26	Hay (tons)	1-31
Barley	23	Cotton (bale)	.306

The average home value per acre for the whole country was as follows:

Indian corn	\$18 75	Buckwheat	\$49 00
Wheat	23 00	Potatoes	74 88
Rye	19 00	Tobacco	82 45
Oats	16 00	Hay	18 60
Barley	20 25	Cotton	33 00

The number, aggregate value, and average value per head, of live stock in the United States were as follows:

	Number.	Value.	Average value.
Horses	5,756,940	\$432,696,226	\$75 16
Mules	858,685	66,415,760	77 61
Oxen and other cattle	11,945,484	219,144,599	20 86
Milk cows	8,691,518	319,681,153	36 76
Sheep (all ages)	38,991,912	98,407,809	2 26
Hogs (all ages)	21,317,258	110,766,266	4 55

When we glance at the items of interest embraced in the above statement we feel that as complete a statement should be given us. Let the Government labor to maintain the Township Societies in active operation and properly managed they would prove so many channels to collect definite knowledge. The head office would simply have to compile the full details given by the subordinate societies, and by these means confer a benefit on the farming community of great value.

## Great Discovery for the South.

The *Journal of Agriculture* says, the pamphlet on the use and merits of the Ramie, by Dr. Roedel, contains all information necessary to those interested in this valuable discovery—and describes this plant, with all its advantages over cotton and as a substitute for it. It is conceded by the results of eminent French botanists, that this plant possesses the following advantages (and machines are already patented for its preparation):

1. That the fibre of Ramie is stronger than that of the best European hemp.
2. That it is fifty per cent stronger and better than the Belgian, flaxen, or linen fibre.
3. That the Ramie fibre may be spun as fine as that of flax, and that it will be doubly as durable.
4. That the plant is a vigorous grower, and will produce far the greatest amount of textile fibre of any plant hitherto known.
5. That it will produce within the belt in which it flourishes, from three to five annual crops, each equal to the best gathered from hemp. It requires less labor than cotton, is not destroyed by the caterpillar, does not suffer from excess of rains, and withstands the longest drouth without injury? can be taken from the field in the morning and, a few hours after, a nice, fine fibre may be had by using a cleaning machine patented by Roedel.

The fibre of this plant is, when cleaned, without bleaching, purely white, far finer than cotton or flax linen. The plant, in a warm latitude, is perennial, and the crops from it are taken like those of cane, by cutting it at the ground; from the ratoons a new growth springs up at once, giving from three to four, and even five cuttings per annum in Louisiana, middle and lower Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. Rich sandy ground suits best, but it is so vigorous that will do well anywhere, and the roots, or pieces of roots and stalks, can be used to increase the plantation.

In a word, the culture of this plant will reconstruct the prosperity of the South, its market price being already quoted in the foreign prices current.—[Home Journal, Kentucky.]

There is a tract society in Sterling, Scotland, consisting of one man only. His name is Peter Drummond. He is a seedman, and about twenty years ago he began to publish tracts, and he has put into circulation about fifty millions.