

OKOLONA MESSENGER.

Democratic in Principle, But Independent in Thought and Action. Devoted to Honesty, Truth and Good Government.

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NO. 4

Cotton and Prices.

An Open Letter By Mr. R. L. Fitzgerald.

In view of the fact that you hear it banded about the streets that Okolona is not paying the prices for cotton that neighboring towns are, hence the buyers of Okolona are robbing the farmer, and other like insinuations, I deem it a fit time to speak and to speak plainly, not with malice or in a spirit of retaliation, but with a purpose to tell the truth and the whole truth because the truth never did hurt anything or anybody in the long run.

Up to four years ago, Okolona had the reputation for its good cotton as any point in Mississippi outside of the Delta. Today she stands at the foot of the list, even Corinth, with her Post Oak ridges and sandy hill sides, a soil not to be compared with ours for raising "boded" cotton, a place where cotton has been looked upon, for many years, as the most inferior in the State. Corning, I say, has stepped in and taken her place above Okolona. To use more scientific phraseology Okolona has stepped down and out and taken her stand at the foot of the class. The presentment Okolona finds herself in today is brought about solely by one thing, viz: Planting a cotton that is inferior in body and staple. I do not advocate the cultivation of what is generally understood as long staple cotton exclusively. Indeed the amount of land in the vicinity of our town adapted to the successful raising of this cotton is very limited. I would say in this connection, however, to those who contemplate raising this variety, to bear in mind that it takes good land, good seed and moisture to make it on anything like a paying basis. I would advise planting this cotton on creek and branch bottoms and other good lands situated so as to retain a more or less degree of atmospheric dampness. This is merely a side step, however, from the main thought and intent of this letter. I propose to deal with the cotton that we plant for the bulk of the crop.

Heretofore, we have had some very zealous advocates for the cultivation of Simpkins and other allied breeds of extremely short fiber. In the last few years the almost universal planting of this kind of cotton is the reason that Okolona has fallen down to a rating in the cotton world that is below any other place that I know of. The men who have been advocating and pushing these varieties of cotton are those to whom I have a very great respect, and am pleased to number among my personal friends. But I am persuaded they have had a mistaken zeal, and I sincerely hope by now they have come to see the error of their way. The arguments put forth by these gentlemen in favor of these varieties are threefold, namely: Structures earlier, makes more per acre, and the point the most stress is laid upon, is the fact that "they pay us just as much for this cotton as they do for the other." The first two points I am not ready to admit. The last I will admit. There is a cotton called the "Miller" which has been planted between Tupelo and Booneville for several years. This year they have made forty per cent better output than we have in this territory. There may have been something in the different seasons if there was any difference, I do not know as to that, but one thing I do know, and that is, you would have great difficulty in convincing those people that a change in their seed would in any way benefit them. In addition to the excellent yield of this cotton it is also of superior quality in body and staple and they have been getting half cent per pound more for it all season than we can pay for cotton here. This fact too well known to be controverted.

But to go back to the chief argument made by the boosters of Simpkins et al., that it brings just as much on the market as the better cotton. I have already said that this fact, and right here is where I want my readers to follow me closely, because this is the perplexing problem to the uninitiated. Cotton is a commodity that is bought and sold on merit until a reputation is established for it, and then it is sold on reputation until the reputation becomes bad by too frequent and over-enthusiastic imitations. This can be illustrated so clearly that none can fail to see. For example take the Bender cotton of the Delta. This cotton has a reputation far and wide for strength and length of fiber, and commands a premium of several cents per pound over ours or any cotton raised in other parts of the State. I have known shippers who live in the Delta to buy cotton at points around this section, local to their shipping station, get a Delta B-L for it, mix it with their cotton and sell it for the same money. This cotton was not sold on its merits, as you will see, but sold on the reputation of Delta cotton. The question is often asked, and it seems to be the stage over which so many stumble, why does Aberdeen pay just as much for the cotton from near Simpkins as she does for the other cotton? Why did you pay as the same price for it as you did for the better cotton? The explanation is very simple when you take the trouble to look beneath the surface. As long as Okolona held her good name for high class boded cotton, and as long as Aberdeen holds hers, the buyers would and can easily slip a few of the unwelcome children into the family of the good name and the aforesaid family takes them through on its merit and reputation. We disposed of these youngsters in this way for quite a while, not willingly, but of necessity, until they increased to such an amazing quantity that we had nothing but bastards to offer—hence we stand as we do today on a basis of the sorry end of the proposition. In political parlance, it was riding the little fellow in on the big fellow's coat tail. But mark you if the planters in the territory of Aberdeen or any other market that holds a good reputation turn to planting cotton of inferior quality to the extent that it predominates in the market it will have to undergo the same ordeal that Okolona is going through now.

Let me say right here, if Okolona is ever reinstated, and ever takes her place again in the front ranks with other good markets in the State, be careful how you raise this "boded" stuff. Because when you raise it we have to buy it, and the loss we have to dispose of the better all well and standing be as a market for superior boded cotton. But if we continue in the ways of the last two or three years it will finally require the wisdom of a sage to forecast the result. As long as Okolona cotton goes begging, as it were, as long as men who want cotton, in casting about turn as a final resort to Okolona, other markets will stand out head and shoulders above us, and gradually encroach on our territory, which will be the end instead of our town enjoying the erst while title of Queen City of the Prairie, she will be a wide place in the road.

Yours truly,
R. L. FITZGERALD.

Man's Overlooked Opportunities.
Oh, the littleness of the lives that we are living, denying to ourselves the bigness of that thing which it is to be a man, to be a child of God.—Philip Brooks.

Definition Wanted.
"What is a sardine?" has come up before a London court for decision in a suit growing out of the sale of various kinds of small fish under this label.

One Possible Benefit.
"Pebbles says he is thinking of running for congress." "Just so." "Do you think that would be advisable?" "Well, the exercise might do him good."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"SUCKERS" AND ELSE.

"Pastor" Russell is fond of boasting that his writings have "a greater newspaper circulation every week than those of any other living man and greater, doubtless, than the combined circulation of the writings of all the priests and preachers in North America." Well, the circulation of the writings of "Pastor" Russell is great and its greatness is one of the present-day wonders. In exploiting the secular press, he has thrown his hook into a school of "suckers." The avidity with which they have swallowed the hook is truly surprising to those who know something of the watchfulness of the secular press. The editors seem to think "Pastor" Russell is really one of the world's great preachers; and his followers are numbered by the million, and that the International Bible Students' Association is really an aggregation of scholars who are making special study of the Bible.

The intelligent part of the world is still laughing over "Pastor" Russell's exploitation of the secular press last summer when, in publishing the fact that some of his modest students met in a kind of mass meeting and abolished hellfire, he made the impression even on the minds of some English savants that a great body called the International Bible Students' Association had met and taken a ship for which the centuries had been waiting. It would be very funny, if it were not so sad.

It seems that "Pastor" Russell, in looking for "suckers," drops his hook with great success in waters not journalistic. We have just received at this office some literature telling how "Pastor" Russell was made the great feature of Illinois State Fair when, on October 6, he "spoke under the auspices of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, the crowd surpassing the former high record made two years ago when William Jennings Bryan spoke for the State Fair Board." We were favored with a page of the Illinois State Register, which featured the great event, displaying prominently "Pastor" Russell's shrewd face, and having the old gentleman surrounded by mammoth pumpkins, whirling airships, racing horses, and other sights. Not secondary was the picture of a young thing pouring the main gun to hear him of "London and New York" discourse on "death, resurrection, immortality, and to the age of the future State."

Then the "Pastor" has made the impression that he "an others went to the Orient made an extensive study of foreign religions, and found the whole thing to be a monumental failure. We have not seen in the "sucker" press a result of the findings of William F. Miller, who investigated this trap and found that the "Pastor" had not stopped long enough in the Orient to investigate a story that much less missions.

But it does but little good to discuss the gullibility of the age in general, and of the secular press and agricultural boards in particular. The lesson for us is that an advertising cult may make itself a mighty Church on paper (and through the paper); that it may delude many thousands, and that the only practical thing the Church can do is to steep its membership in its own sound literature, and thus protect itself against the wily and specious "Pastor."—Christian Advocate, November 1st, 1912.

New York's Greatest Borough.
Manhattan, one of the five boroughs comprising greater New York and its most important borough, is approximately fifteen miles in length, from the Battery to the city line, and about five miles at its greatest width. Its frontage on the water, together with the shipping facilities of the entire city, is 444 miles, or equal to the distance between the city and Buffalo on Lake Erie.

Too Literal a Change.

One night when Viola Allen was playing Parthenia in "Ingomar," she once leaned peacefully against a set piece and soliloquized softly: "What sudden change has come upon the world!" On the instant the set piece overturned with the actress, leaving only one riddled foot projecting in sight of the amused spectators.

Gossip and Safety.

"The person who brings you a choice piece of gossip," says a philosopher, "will take one away if there is half a chance. Sit pretty tight when the gossip peddler is around."—Quincy Herald.

CONTRACTOR NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Chickasaw County, Mississippi will on Monday the 2nd day of December, 1912, in front of the Court House in the town of Houston, let the contract for working the roads in Supervisor's District No. 3 in two divisions to the lowest and best bidder. The Board reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

This the 7th day of Oct., 1912

H. E. BRANNON, Clerk

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

To Hollis Barlow, Postoffice Louisville, Ky., Defendant:

You are hereby commanded to appear before the Chancery Court of the 2nd District of the County of Chickasaw in said State on the 1st Monday December, 1912 to defend the suit to wit: Court of Lorna Barlow wherein you are a defendant.

This the 1st day of November 1912.

H. E. BRANNON, Clerk.

By W. J. Williams, D. C.

Lyon & Lyon

Attys. for Complainant

TELEPHONE TALK NO. 8

Aside from the fact that the telephone directory is often referred to as a city guide, it is used for other reference purposes on the average of many hundreds of times daily, and this makes it one of the most valuable advertising mediums that can be obtained. All business concerns should take advantage of the Company's offer and secure information concerning advertising space in our telephone directories. Call up offices of the Company, or address Advertising Department, Nashville, Tenn.

CUMBERLAND TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO. (Incorporated)

State of Mississippi | Chancery Court
Chickasaw County | June Term
Second District | 1912

John Griffin

vs

Chas. Griffin and Will Griffin

NOTICE

By virtue of the provisions of a decree of the Chancery Court of the 2nd District of Chickasaw County, Mississippi in the above matter, rendered at the June Term, 1912, I will on the first Monday in December, 1912, within legal hours, in front of the court house door in the City of Okolona, offer for sale and sell to the highest and best bidder for cash the following described parcel or lot of land, and appurtenances and improvements, etc., situated thereon, to-wit:

Beginning at a point on East Street where same intersects Jefferson Street, running East 121 feet, thence North 142 feet, thence West to East Street, thence South, running along East Street to the point of beginning on Jefferson Street, said Lot being Lot No. 4, Block 106, according to the G. W. Thornton survey of the City of Okolona.

This property is sold for partition, and the title is believed to be good, though I convey only such title as is vested in me as Commissioner for this purpose.

W. J. WILLIAMS,
Commissioner.

Rheumatic Pains

are quickly relieved by an application of Sloan's Liniment. You don't need to rub—just lay on lightly. It penetrates at once to the seat of the trouble.

Here's Proof

Miss ELISE MANTHEY, 4229 Talman Ave., Chicago, Ill., writes:—"About two years ago my mother broke down with rheumatism. The doctors didn't do any good. My mother was persuaded to try Sloan's Liniment, and in three weeks was entirely well—and I believe she is cured forever."

Relief From Rheumatism

Miss H. E. LINDEGAR, Glroy, Calif., writes:—"My mother has used one 50c bottle of Sloan's Liniment, and although she is over 83 years of age, she has obtained great relief from her rheumatism."

Rheumatism Entirely Gone

Miss EYELETTA MYER, of 1215 Wyoming St., Dayton, Ohio, writes:—"My mother was troubled with rheumatism and her friends advised her to get Sloan's Liniment and her rheumatism is entirely gone. At the same time the family was troubled with ring-worms—there were five ring-worms between my sisters and I and Sloan's Liniment cured every one of us in a week's time."

SLOAN'S LINIMENT

is the best remedy for neuralgia, sciatica, lumbago, chest pains, asthma, hay fever, croup, sore throat and sprains.

At all dealers. Price, 25c, 50c, and \$1.00.

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