

AGRICULTURAL.

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At a meeting of the New Jersey Agricultural Society, held in Princeton on the 23d ult. ROBERT E. HORNER, Esq. from a committee on the subject, made the following Report.

ON RUST AND MILDEW.

Your committee in their endeavor to investigate the subject of mildew and rust on wheat, and what may be in some measure preventives, will first present to your consideration some circumstances which have occurred under our observation, to show that it is not in the power of us short-sighted mortals, with our puny arm, to contend against the overruling providence of God: occurrences arise which are not in the power of man to foresee, govern, or control.—In confirmation of this view of the subject we present the following cases.

One of our farmers had an extraordinary piece of wheat, which he thought out of danger, it was so near ripe. On a very hot day, between the hours of one and three o'clock, there came a small cloud over which completely drenched the field of wheat. A death-like stillness succeeded: the cloud passed away: the sun shone intensely hot. The owner in this state of the case, went to examine the wheat, as it was much pressed down by the shower: he immediately observed a continual ticking, or snapping noise in every direction in the wheat. The straw was fine and bright, but upon examination he perceived it bursting in short splinters of a fourth of an inch long, and the sap exuding in thousands of places. A day or two after, the whole field was darkened with rust and the wheat of very little value. It does not appear that these circumstances take place while the wheat is growing, but only at this critical state of ripening.

On my neighbor White's farm some years since was one of the heaviest pieces of wheat straw I ever saw, remarkably fine and nearly ripe. I had also a good piece advancing fast to maturity, on a close warm morning, a small cloud of fog arose from the meadow and gradually covered the two fields, but was not a general fog: being very still it remained hovering over the fields until the hot sun dissipated the vapor. Being acquainted with the above case, I was alarmed for the wheat and watched over it with deep interest. When the sun had somewhat dried the straw, and warmed it, the straw began to burst with a continual ticking noise, the sap exuding at all these little spots. In a day or two the fields were black with rust except some small spots, which are worthy of notice. An acre or two of mine was so near ripe that the wheat was tolerable good, and the rust White's field there were some trees which kept the intense heat of the sun from the straw; there was tolerable wheat, also.—The rest of the fields would scarcely pay for gathering and threshing.

A question of importance arises on these two cases. Was this injury a fungus, the very fine seeds of which float about and attach themselves to the straw, as some of our learned Agricultural writers tell us, or is it the sap of the straw that ran out and was dried on the straw, and was reddish or black according to its state of ripeness or fullness of sap?

Your committee are decidedly of the opinion that the sap being lost at this critical time of ripening is the true cause of the shrinking of the grain.

Some of our most judicious Agricultural writers have taught us that the leaves of Indian corn above the ear cannot be taken off at the time of ripening, without detriment to the corn, causing it to shrink in the grain.

Your committee made an experiment on this case, when the corn was nearly ripe stripping some rows, and leave others, over several acres. At husking time it was evident that on the rows that were stripped, many of the ears were considerable shrunk in the grain, so much so as to be loose on the cob, the ears on the rows that were not stripped showing in the most satisfactory manner the damage sustained by removing the leaves above the ears.

Your committee think they are fully sustained in their conclusion on the wheat, by the parallel case of injury sustained by the corn in the removal of the leaves, which at this critical time has the only nourishment to sustain the corn in ripening. So of the wheat straw; the bottom is dead in a great degree, but from the upper joint to the top is full of nourishment to sustain the wheat in ripening, and this is the part that suffers the loss of sap. The under part of the straw is ripe, and passed through the state in which it can suffer loss, and we often find it bright and tough at the bottom, when the top will scarcely make a band.

These two cases fully demonstrate the impossibility of any management in the power of man, always to insure a crop of wheat safe against the destructive effects of rust. Yet a kind Providence has left us so many means by which we may reduce this loss, and in some measure approach to this very desirable security, that they are worthy of our attentive consideration, and practical experiment.

Mildew and rust, are more common now than before that destructive scourge, the Hessian Fly, appeared in this State. Previous to that time the wheat was sown the last of August, and the first of Septem-

ber, tillered largely, obtained great strength of roots, and was to produce strong, bright straw, with but few leaves, the consequence of which was but little mildew and rust.

The fly having totally cut off the wheat, put the farmers on many schemes to meet this ruinous enemy. Among the experiments tried, manuring high just at seed time, and sowing late, was much depended on. But disappointment frequently followed from mildew or rust. As the wheat was often sown late in October it ought to have had three bushels of seed to the acre, instead of three pecks, or one bushel, the usual quantity then sown. Being sown so late the plants had no time to tiller, or multiply and strengthen their roots and stalks; of course the winter weakened and thinned the plants, which made the wheat still later in the season; and when highly manured the straw was full of leaves, very succulent, usually mildewed, and almost certainly rusted—of course, crop of small value.

At this difficult time of obtaining a small lot of wheat, one of your committee in a conversation with an Englishman who then was a very successful raiser of wheat on Penn's Manor, fully stated the difficulties as above narrated. He considerably replied, that there appeared to be two prominent errors in the then practice—the manuring so late, and sowing so little seed.

Ques. What injury by late manuring?

Ans. Apt to make the straw very succulent and full of leaves.

Ques. What quantity of seed ought to be sown?

Ans. Increase the quantity till it fully occupies the ground, making the straw fine and but few leaves.

This short history of the difficulties and means made use of to obtain a small lot of wheat immediately after the fly came, your committee thought might be of use in further examining the subject. It shows the progress we have made at the present time in better cultivation, earlier manuring, earlier sowing, and doubling the quantity of seed sown.

First Means.—The means of prevention—first a good dry, loamy soil, well prepared by cultivation, not too recently manured, that by cultivation there may be a good assimilation of manure to soil, the more complete the better. Cover the seed about two inches deep, either with drill or plow, that it may have a good hold of the soil, and not be thrown out by winter frosts.

Second Means.—Quantity of seed sown must depend on the judgment of the farmer. The strength of the soil, the size of grains, &c. must be taken into consideration. The grains of some wheat are almost as long again as some others, and some kinds tiller more than others; at any rate let the ground be fully occupied that no weeds or trash occupy the ground and fill places, when the wheat, or thin and of course, rust. Such thin places, by unequal sowing, were observable in some fields this year, by their dingy or rusty appearance; whereas, the rest of the land sown was bright and good.

Time of sowing.—As early sown wheat produces the strongest straw and fewest leaves, and not so liable to be laid with wet nor so apt to be thrown out of the ground by winter frosts, these reasons recommend it as preventive to rust.

At what particular time wheat ought to be sown to escape both fly and rust, is not easy to settle, but should the fly cease its depredations, early in Sept. say from the 18th to the 20th, would be advisable, for the various reason assigned above. The late sown wheat sometimes succeeds under particular cultivation and soil; still the chances against it are as ten to one.

Kind of Wheat.—In a former communication your committee recommended the Mediterranean wheat as most safe. Hitherto the fly has not touched. It has the same character at the south, as we see by the Farmer's Register—being untouched there. This is strongly in its favor. It is also less liable to rust than any kind we are acquainted with. But other kinds may offer, and upon trial be found preferable to the Mediterranean. The Goldenrock now upon trial may offer some advantages. It has strong, short straws, not so liable to get down by wet as some other kinds, and said to be excellent for flouring.

Means of Improvement.—We see abroad in the lands and around us, among the farmers, a more certain means of improvement than any thing your committee can offer. A spirit of enquiry; a wakeful ambition to meet the difficulties of their profession; a desire to obtain the best seeds to produce the best quality and greatest quantity of their various products. This, my friends, is the surest foundation of all permanent improvement. These hitherto dormant faculties, if kept aroused and active will produce results in ten years from this time, that will surprise us all, for we are well persuaded that New Jersey is capable producing four-fold what the lands now produce.

*This season the Mediterranean wheat has rusted in some fields and in some spots in others, in my own field, the cold, damp, and thin spots, were somewhat rusty; upon the whole a good crop, and quite as free from rust as the white wheat.

The Apalacicola (Fa.) Journal states that on the 2d and 6th of August, a frost was experienced sufficient to make quite an impression upon the corn. That's very early for frost so far south.

COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

BLOOMSBURG, SEPTEMBER 3.

COLUMBIA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC Delegate Convention.

The undersigned Democratic Standing Committee of Columbia county, taking into consideration the distracted situation of the Democratic party in consequence of the excited state of the people, arising out of the constant agitation of the local question, and believing no better way can be devised, by which it can be settled, without an act of the Legislature, than to allow each party to the question, to have their candidates for the Legislature, and for county officers, brought forward separately and distinctly upon this question alone, recommend the holding of no county convention of the whole democratic party of the county, but that each portion of the democratic party to the local question, be requested to hold separate and distinct county conventions, & that they meet at the usual places of holding general elections in each district, on Saturday, the 27th of August, inst. between the hours of 2 and 6 o'clock P. M., and elect the usual number of delegate favorable to the views of each party in the local question to meet at the house of Enoch Howell, in Bloomsburg, on the Monday following, at 12 o'clock, noon; in separate and distinct conventions to place in nomination tickets favorable to the views of each, that the question may be fairly tried, and thus secure in future, harmony and good feeling in the democratic ranks.

M. FORNWALD.

HENRY WEBB.

JOHN LAZARUS.

Democratic Standing Committee of Columbia county.

August 15, 1842.

In pursuance of the above call of the Democratic Standing Committee, delegates from the several townships and election districts in the county, elected by the REMOVAL and Anti-Division portion of the Democratic party, assembled at the house of Enoch Howell, in Bloomsburg, on Monday, August 29th, 1842, and organized by calling to the chair Stephen Baldy, Esq. of Cattawissa, James C. Sproul, Esq. of Brier Creek, as Vice Presidents, and George W. Morris, of Greenwood, and Jesse Coleman of Orange, as Secretaries.

On motion the townships were called over in Alphabetical order, and the following delegates appeared and produced their credentials.

Bloom—L. B. Rupert, H. Webb.

Brier Creek—L. Salmon, L. Dieterich.

Cattawissa—Stephen Baldy, O. D. Leib.

Derry—J. Biddle, J. C. Sproul.

Fishing Creek—J. Lazarus, T. Hutchison.

Greenwood—James Dewitt, G. W. Morris;

Hemlock—T. J. Vanderslice, M. G. Shoemaker.

Jackson—Iram Derr, Wm. Kelly.

Liberty—A. B. Cumings, L. S. Steinman.

Limestone—J. Derr, Henry Dye.

Madison—T. A. Funston, J. Keiner.

Mifflin—C. Muss, John Keller, jr.

Monteur—J. Dieterich, P. Rupert.

Mahoning—T. Lloyd, P. Wickersham,

Orange—D. Forwald, J. Coleman.

Paxton—C. Shuman, J. Gensel.

Roaring Creek—M. R. Hower, J. Baringer.

Sugarloaf—John McHenry, A. Young,

Esq.

Mt. Pleasant—Wm. Howell, John

Morden, jr.

Valley—

Delegates from Valley township appeared but having no credentials, and failing to produce any proof of their election, were not admitted.

The following resolutions were now introduced and unanimously passed by acclamation.

Resolved—That we consider the division of Columbia county as a measure fraught with incalculable evils to the citizens of the county generally, and would almost destroy the prosperity of those townships proposed to be stricken off, while but a few speculators in Danville and Berwick would be benefited thereby.

Resolved—That as there appears to be a determination on the part of the two extremes to cut and carve up the county to benefit their own private interest regardless of the general good, every well wisher to the prosperity of the county should unite in pressing the removal question to effect, as the only means of preventing the division men from affecting their reckless project.

Resolved—That as the members of this convention have been elected as opposed to Division, and in favor of the Removal of the

seat of justice of the county, and to carry out the wishes of our constituents, we will not place in nomination for the Assembly any candidate who is not an open, uncompromising advocate of our views upon these two questions.

On motion names of candidates were placed before the convention for nomination—to wit: Daniel Snyder and Charles F. Mann.

Upon the name of Mr. Mann being mentioned, the President read the following letter from him, which was received by the convention and spectators present, with great applause.

BLOOMSBURG Aug. 29, 1842.

Chairman of the Democratic County Convention.

DEAR SIR:

My friends have thought proper to propose me as a candidate to represent Columbia county in the Legislature of this state—although I am under obligations to those friends for their good opinion and wishes, I do not wish you to consider me as a candidate before the democratic removal convention this day, but hope your body may be united; and select such candidates as will unite the whole removal friends.

Very respectfully, yours.

CHARLES F. MANN.

The name of Mr. Mann being withdrawn, there remained no other candidates before the convention for nomination but Daniel Snyder, whereupon, on motion

DANIEL SNYDER,

was nominated by acclamation, as a candidate for Assembly.

On motion the convention proceeded to nominate candidates for Commissioner, and the following names were introduced.

John B. Edgar,

Wm. J. Ikeler,

John McWilliams.

Upon the name of Mr. Edgar, being mentioned, the following letter from him was read.

ORANGE, Aug 29, 1842.

I understand that an expression of sentiment is asked from me with regard to the local question. Therefore that neither party may be deceived, I tell you, Gentlemen, my sentiments have never changed, I am in favor of a removal and against a division.

JOHN B. EDGAR.

On motion the convention proceeded to ballot for a candidate for Commissioner, which resulted as follows:

John B. Edgar had 31 votes,

Wm. J. Ikeler 2

John McWilliams 1

Whereupon John B. Edgar was declared duly nominated.

On motion the convention proceeded to the nomination of an Auditor which resulted as follows:

Johnston Ikeler had 20 votes,

Samuel Kisner 14

The President therefore declared Johnston Ikeler duly nominated.

On motion the convention then proceeded to the nomination of a candidate for Prothonotary, and Jacob Eyerly, was declared unanimously nominated.

The name of Robert B. Sproul, and Charles Connor having been brought before the convention, as candidates for Register & Recorder, the following letter from Mr. Connor was introduced by the President.

Aug. 29, 1842.

To STEPHEN BALDY, Esq.

President of the Removal Convention.

Dear Sir—I understand that objections are made against me on the ground that I reside at Danville, and am not friendly to removal. It is therefore but right for me to say, that although I do reside in Danville, & although I feel very friendly towards the inhabitants for their uniform kindness to me, still being a native of Brier Creek, where my relatives and interest are, that has by no means, altered my opinion as to the propriety of removing the seat of justice. I have always been and am still friendly to removal.

Yours most Respectfully,

CHARLES CONNER.

On motion, the convention proceeded to the nomination of Register & Recorder and the first ballot resulted as follows:

Robert B. Sproul had 19 votes,

Charles Conner 18

There being 38 delegates present, and as R. B. Sproul had not a majority of all the delegates another balloting was ordered, which resulted as follows:

Charles Conner had 20 votes;

Robert B. Sproul 17

Whereupon, Charles Conner was declared duly nominated.

On motion, the following gentlemen were appointed standing committee for the ensuing year. Stephen Baldy, James C. Sproul, Daniel Forwald, Charles F. Mann and Charles Kahler.

The following resolution was then introduced and passed with acclamation.

Resolved—That this convention, in placing the name of Daniel Snyder before the people of the county, as a candidate for the Legislature, pledged as he is by his acts in the Legislature, opposed to division and in favor of removal, are but carrying out the positive instructions of our constituents—and we confidently ask for him the support of every man in the county who is friendly to removal, and opposed to division, not only upon the grounds of his worth as a citizen, but that while they are sustaining him, they are approving his course in the last Legislature upon the local question, and voting directly against division, & in favor of removal, a measure which our opponents refused to have submitted to their decision by an act of the Legislature.

On motion, it was

Resolved—That the thanks of this convention are due to Charles F. Mann, Esq. for the honorable and high minded stand which he has assumed in withdrawing his name as a candidate for nomination to the Assembly, thus proving that he has the welfare of the removal more at heart than his own advancement to office.

On motion, it was

Resolved—That this convention view with regret and cannot but condemn in the strongest language, the late attempt of the Danville people, to displace from the office of Supervisor on the North Branch Canal, John McReynolds, for no other reason than because he is an advocate of the removal question in the county, and we trust that the Canal Commissioners will never discontinue an efficient, worthy good officer, against whom no real grounds of complaint can be made, merely at the instigation of a reckless faction, whose only object is to make capital for their party to a local question in a county.

Resolved—That we pledge ourselves individually and collectively, to sustain the ticket, this day formed, not only because the candidates are every way worthy of our support, but because, by so doing, we sustain a measure which is of more importance to the welfare and future prosperity of the county, than the election of any particular man can possibly be.

Resolved—That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the officers, and that all the papers in the county be requested to publish them, and also the papers at Harrisburg.

STEPHEN BALDY, President.

JAMES C. SPROUL, } Vice Presidents,

ISAIAH SALMON, } Secretary,

George W. Morris, } Secretary,

Jesse Coleman, } Secretary.

For the Columbia Democrat.

The time has come fellow citizens, when it behooves the friends of the removal question in Columbia county to speak in such language that there will be no room left to doubt, by either the advocates or opposers of the removal question, what is the true policy of the inhabitants of this county.—It is now nearly thirty years since a removal of the county seat has been sought for in this county, and for nearly that whole time, I have watched, with untiring zeal, the course pursued by each party. I shall not mention the names of the different persons who have represented this county in the state Legislature, but I shall mention a fact, which cannot be controverted, which is, that the politics of this county, for years, were swayed by the Montgomery family at Danville, and it was alone through their influence, that the county seat was first located at Danville, and that mainly through misrepresentation, by representing all the upper part of the county as being an uninhabited tract of country and consequently it was most convenient to place the county seat in one corner of the county, at the point where the most inhabitants were. For this purpose the committee to select the site for the county seat were to meet at Milton.—When behold that part of the committee from the upper end of the county pursuing an honest cause, goes to Milton, but Mr. Montgomery, with a few friends takes across the ridge to Northumberland, and there, before the party which had gone to Milton could have any knowledge of Mr. Montgomery and his friends, they had