

THE TWINE TRUST.

The organized opposition to the binding twine trust bids fair to equal, next year, the vigorous action against the cotton-bagging trust which has made the last year so notable in the history of the cotton industry. As is well known, the gathering of the great wheat harvest of the west is now accomplished by the aid of reapers which bind the grain as they reap it. Of course this method has led to a greatly increased demand for twine of certain quality and size and the demand thus created has led in turn to the formation of a "trust," or "combination," or "business arrangement" for controlling the supply and price of an article which has become indispensable to the men who produce the grain that feeds the people, not only of this but of other countries. Last year the price of binding twine was crowded up to a point that decent men in any business should have been ashamed of. The result is a counter movement, led by the *Western Rural*, the most influential agricultural journal of the west, which promises to teach the twine men a lesson not unlike that which the cotton bagging manufacturers were taught last year. The *Rural's* plan is a simple, peaceful and effective one. It recommends to the farmers that by preconcerted arrangement they dispense with binding twine altogether for one year. The plan involves some inconvenience, but is thoroughly practical as the farmers will simply stack their grain loose and thresh it from the stack, leaving the twine men with their stock upon their hands. Of the results to be reasonably expected from this course, the *Rural* says: "We can get along without binding twine for a season, and if we do, there will never be another binding twine trust as long as the world stands, and the price of twine will never again be as high as it has been. Not only that, but one season's refusal to buy twine will show the power of farmers to protect their own interests to an extent that will spread demoralization among other classes of robbers, and set them to trembling, too." The western farmers have an opportunity to make an effective protest against combination and extortion and it is to be hoped that they will improve it. Such a lesson as they can enforce in one short summer will be worth nearly as much to this country as the entire crop that they will harvest—the lesson already taught by southern planters, that the great agricultural class in America is still independent, and that capitalists can enter into combination against it only at their peril.

About one-quarter of the whole 25,000 square miles of Ceylon is under cultivation, and the principal products are cocoa, rice, cinnamon, nutmegs, other spices, cinchona, coffee and tea. There has within the last nine years been a most wonderful increase in the amounts of some of these products exported. In 1878 only 25,000 pounds of tea were exported, as against nearly 4,500,000 pounds in 1885, and nearly 8,000,000 in 1886. Cinchona bark, from which quinine is manufactured, has gone up from some 200,000 pounds exported nine years before to nearly 15,000,000 in 1886. The total number of coconuts raised on the plantations in a single year is approximated at nearly 700,000,000.

Among the castes by which we are governed the farmer caste must not be overlooked. What distinguishes this caste is the ease with which it is amused. The farmers get very little solid benefit and a great deal of solid injury from our laws, but whatever they suggest in the way of merely ornamental legislation they can get every time. The foolish bauble of the Department of Agriculture is expected to compensate the farmers for the needless burden of taxes they sustain.

Under the provision of the local option law which prohibits merchants from giving away liquors at their places of business to induce trade, a country merchant at Jackson, Miss., has been indicted for having a big egg-nogg at his store on Christmas morning and inviting his friends and customers to come in to help drink it.

Instead of doubling the duty on tin plate, why did not the Senate vote a bounty of a cent a pound to all who would produce the article in this country? If the bounty scheme was justifiable in the case of the producers of sugar, why was it not justifiable in the case of the producers of tin plate?

Let home stand first before all other things. No matter how high your ambition may transcend its duties, no matter how far your talents or your influence may reach beyond its doors, before everything else build up a true home. Be not its slave; be its minister.

SURVEYING.—Mr. E. T. T. Fisher is prepared to do surveying of all kinds at reasonable rates. He has complete copies of field notes and township plats in the county. Address—Miller's Station, Linn county Or.

CONCERNING WHISKY.

The *Capital Journal* says: "Now that the Senate has decided to bestow a bounty to encourage the production of native sugar, other industries are looking for assistance of the same sort. A member of the whisky trust, for instance, wants the government to give distillers a bounty of five cents a gallon on exported whisky. This bounty, he thinks, would make it possible for them to compete with German manufacturers in their home market and with everybody everywhere." This is consistent and reasonable. It is as legitimate to give distillers a bounty as sugar producers. To do either is a violent usurpation of the personal rights of the people.

READ THIS.—Mr. W. H. Greenwood has purchased the gallery formerly occupied by Mr. L. V. Clark. He is now prepared to do all styles of photographic work from a locket to life size and can finish in oil, water color, India ink and crayon. Mr. Greenwood is just from the east and is thoroughly acquainted with first-class work. He has come here to make this his home and cordially invites the public generally to call and get acquainted. He comes highly recommended as a first-class artist.

PURE MILK.—Mr. Henry Stewart has established a milk route in this city and asks for the patronage of our citizens. Tickets for sale at Brownell & Standard's.

BARBIES.—The finest line of baby carriages in the Valley just received at Stewart & Sox's. Prices are remarkably cheap considering the superior quality of the carriages.

KILN DRIED FLOORING.—Good kiln dried flooring at the Springfield lumber yard in this city.

J. A. Archibald, agent Singer Manufacturing Co., opposite Odd Fellows Temple, Albany.

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