THE DAILY BEE
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We are obliged to the courteous Purser of the steamship Nashua for the Galveston News of the 12th and 13th.

The Opelousas Railroad.

At heretofore indicated, it was made a condition of restoring this road to its stockholders that they should elect loyal Directors. Mayor Hon. Kennedy announced the fact in an order directing an election for such a Directory to be held on the 22th instant. It will be seen by a notice in another column addressed to the stockholders that the Company is proceeding to comply with this order. Messrs. Adams, Maspero and Conlon are the Commissioners appointed to conduct the election which will take place at the Company's office, corner of St Peter's and Levee streets, on the day above named, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The number of Directors to be chosen is eighteen. A full attendance of stockholders on this occasion is desirable for many and obvious reasons. The process of loyalizing the organization of the Company, though a precedent necessity to the representation of the road, is not the only consideration placed before the election.

It is no small matter to entrust a management to be entrusted with restoring the affairs of the Company and reopening the valuable a highway of commerce and travel. It is a road which is eminently Louisianian in all its aspects, proprietary, geographical and commercial; and its manifest destiny is made than ever to open to New Orleans the vast resources of Texas, and to become ultimately one of the great links of railroad connection between the Mississippi river and the Pacific Ocean. Stockholders should make sure of having capable and trustworthy men in the Board of Directors; they can not do so without giving personal attention to the present election.

Coolie Labor as a Means of Maintaining Southern Agriculture.

It was long ago conceded by enlightened agriculturists in the South that, other things being equal, it would be cheaper to hire labor than to own the laborer. But the great difficulty was to obtain a class of voluntary field laborers who could endure the degree of continuous exposure to heat necessary to the efficient cultivation of cotton, sugar and rice on large breadths of land. Experiments in other countries had proved that the negro, though admirably constituted to work without physical discomfort or detriment under a Southern sun, was not in general to be depended on when free for the amount and kind of labor which he yielded when a slave. It is hardly doubted that but for the fact slavery would have long since ceased peacefully under the operation of economical laws.

Now, since there is no choice between slaves and hired laborers, how to secure adequate voluntary labor is a question on which hangs the future of Southern agriculture. In the West-Indies the aversion of the emancipated blacks to a contract or apprentice system has been demonstrated, and strong doubts of their future practicability for regular and extensive plantation work in the South are reasonably entertained by many Southern planters. Hence the attention of some of them has been turned to the Coolies of China.

There are brought from a region much resembling the Southern United States in climate and in agricultural products. They have been accustomed to the cultivation of cotton, sugar, rice, and tobacco, and have been inured to a labor harder, perhaps, than that of the field hands of the South, and under a sun as fierce a heat. Here, then, is one of two essential conditions, ability, and the Coolies are not wanting in the other, willingness.

Indeed, they seem to have a singular aptitude for long and faithful labor for the lowest wages they receive. They live more cheaply than other people. Instances are on record, one of four or five dollars a month they expect to pay up money, and where, upon testing the period of their contracts, to return home with a small competence.

As to the feasibility of introducing this class of laborers into the South, we quote below the views of Mr. J. S. Thrasher, given in a recent letter published in the Galveston News and written to the settlement of Texas planters. His long residence in China and his familiarity with the Coolie system as exhibited in that island enhance his opinions on this topic to more than ordinary consideration.

Mr. Thrasher says:

It is now about time [illegible] the system of Coolie contract [illegible] introduced in Cuba. It has been [illegible] and failed, and great [illegible] entertained in Cuba of its success [illegible] were sanctioned from the [illegible] of labor, from the [illegible] and from the [illegible] Cuba. [illegible] was considered in Europe [illegible] extent these calculations have been [illegible] or disguised, I am not prepared to [illegible]. It is notorious, however, that the [illegible] and employment of the class of labor in Cuba [illegible] and insane, very large numbers of Coolies having been imported there. No disturbance of public order has occurred [illegible] and the morale of the island have exhibited a wonderful increase, and a change has been produced which I consider the most remarkable of all the effects of the Coolie contract system in Cuba, in my views entertained by the employer class, regarding slavery. I am credibly informed that the planters of that island now feel, to a very great extent, advocates for the abolition of slavery there. The fact must without misgivings be [illegible].

When the Coolie contract system was introduced in Cuba, I resided there and I remember that during the partnership years troubles were occasioned by the consequence of the indefined obligations of the parties to the contract, and the absence of penalties to enforce those of the laborers. These troubles were removed by the adoption of a full and explicit code of free labor regulations, and the provision of officers for the enforcement of the obligation of each party.

The advantages of Coolie contract labor having been abundantly demonstrated in Cuba, it is my decided opinion that a report to it by our planters will be found highly beneficial to their interests and to the State. Cuba presents many similarities to Texas in regard to climate, soil and productions, and the success of the Coolie system there, deprives its introduction here of many of the obstructions to its adoption.

I am not informed of the present cost of importation of Coolies from China, nor of the rate of wages, on which contracts are made. In former years the cost of importation in Cuba was from $250 to $400 per head, according to the delay of obtaining a cargo in China, and the mortality during the voyage; and the wages were four dollars a month for a term of five or seven years.

It is my belief that a resort to this system of labor will revive the waning fortunes of our planters and dispel the gloomy forbodings now entertained of their future. As large operations of this kind cannot be undertaken on mere speculation, it may perhaps, be best to test the value of importation by a combined effort. If a number of our planters would agree to take each a limited number at a maximum cost price, a vessel would probably be found to undertake the importation of a ship load. The ships engaged in the trade, carry from 300 to 600 Coolies. A practical exposition of the feasibility of this labor on our alluvial lands will be worth volumes of argument in behalf of a new system of labor among us.

Respectfully, yours,

J. S. THRASHER

From Galveston and Sabine Pass.

The steamship Nashua, Capt. J. R. Lavender, arrived last evening from Galveston and Sabine Pass with the following passengers:

A J Bell, wife, children and servant, Mrs Irwin and 2 children, Jno Sharp, Chas Bell, F W Jones, Mrs Simon S Levy, M Jacobs, S A Shelby, F W Jones, Mrs Jones and do gov, S Hogg, Mrs G M Jones and 4 children, Mrs Rawson, Miss Rawson, Mrs Lockwood, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs S Fox, Chas Fox, M L Bell, W Kinkaid, J J Kinkaid, Mrs Kinkaid, Mrs S Foster, L A Adams, C M Hamilton, M Sandy, J P Fulton, W A Hutchins, Geo Conway, Thomas J Levy, Chas Lockwood, Jno Lockwood, Thos Lockwood, Mrs Lockwood, J M Hill, Sidney Ayres, A C Nunn, S M Colon, A J Bell, E J Bell, Mrs E J Bell, Master Bell, Master Bell, Master Bell, and 3 in the steerage.

THE CHANGE FROM A SPECIE TO A PAPER CURRENCY—You seem time before the Federal occupation of Texas, gold and silver formed the standard of valuation and the medium of exchange in almost every part of that State. It appears from the subjoined paragraph in the Galveston News of the 12th that the change from specie to a paper currency is attended with most difficulty:

We would caution our dealers against the illegal practice of setting prices on their wares and then demanding specie therefor. This is contrary to the law of the country and to the published orders of the military authorities. It occasions disputes between purchasers and seller, and, more than all, leads to obstinate and unreasonable refusal to receive our currency, which, while it is a legal currency, which, while it is a legal currency, which, while it is a legal