

Soil Robber's Conviction Aids Farming

HIRAM DOOLITTLE, cotton planter from One county, Ga., was tried and found guilty of cheating his posterity and sentenced to one year of hard labor by an Atlanta (Ga.) court. This unique case, probably the only one of its kind ever to be placed on the docket, was tried by radio, with more than 1,500 of the neighbors of the defendant listening in.

The trial of Hiram Doolittle, Soil Robber, was the closing feature of the Agricultural Short Course, broadcast from station WSB of the Atlanta Journal, under the joint direction of the Sears-Robuck Agricultural Foundation and the Soil Improvement Committee.

Farmer Doolittle was brought to the bar for robbing the soil of his little farm of its fertility, by not replenishing its humus or organic matter, by allowing it to become gullied and improperly drained, so the water collected in some spots, and in others washed the surface soil away completely. His counsel insisted that by so doing he was not only cheating himself, and reducing his yield of cotton from one bale to less than one-third bale per acre, and his corn from 40 bushels to scarcely 10 or 15 to the acre, but he was likewise cheating his posterity by making this tract of farm land impoverished and valueless.

The principal witnesses for the prosecution were Andrew Sharp, soil expert for the State Agricultural college, who testified he had examined the soil on the Doolittle farm and found it to be impoverished and run down. He stated that Doolittle could have built up the organic matter in his soil by growing winter covering crops, such as vetch, rye or crimson clover, plowing them under in the spring.

Thomas Work, a neighbor of farmer Doolittle's, called to the witness stand testified that his farm adjoined that of the defendant, that he has exactly the same kind of soil, that he had terraced his land as suggested to the county agricultural agent, that he grew winter cover crops, and that his cotton yield averaged close to a bale per acre, while his corn crop was 30 to 40 bushels per acre.

Bill Cottriss, the star witness of the defense, testified he was a "nothing else but farmer, that he didn't believe in book farming because he was an Independent Thinker, and that the only way to learn farming was by pulling a bell cord over a herd tail just as his daddy did before him. He further stated that he did not believe in high yields per acre, because they were too hard to gather, and, anyway, they took the fertility out of the soil too fast. A man ought to think of his children and grand children, and leave something in the soil so they can make a living off it. Mr. Cottriss said he was the originator of the idea of cutting his farm into strips so he could grow crops on the sides of them and thus increase the acreage of his farm.

The jury was out for one-half minute and returned a verdict of guilty recommending that the defendant be given another chance, provided he would show a willingness to adopt soil improvement practices. Judge Tom saw Mountain sentenced Mr. Doolittle to one year of hard labor rebuilding the terraces on his farm, and put him on parole under the guidance of the county agent, to plan a better cropping and soil improvement campaign.

REAL WIDE SPACES STILL IN EXISTENCE

Washington, March 28.—The day the "great wide open spaces" is not in any immediate danger of being absorbed by the forest service, United States department of agriculture.

Disappointment on the part of many game lovers and outdoor enthusiasts over the invasion of forest area by highways and summer resorts led the forest service to undertake a study to determine just how much of the area of the national forests could be classed as wilderness. The study showed that approximately 100 per cent completed they would range in extent from 560 square miles to 5,000 square miles, with a total area of 52,329 roadless square miles, and an average of 268 sections per area. These figures are exclusive of Alaska.

"The estimator is not so bad as some had feared," says L. F. Knapp of the forest service. "At present one-third of the gross acreage of the national forests, exclusive of Alaska, is in roadless areas of more than 20,000 acres in extent. After all, the 50,000,000 acres of our field affairs have probably done have been considered there will still be approximately one-fifth of the gross area of national forests in roadless areas of 10 townships or more."

Concerning Beas There was a young flapper named Beas. Who looked a little different from the rest; Her eyes were crossed. While her teeth were false. But she was popular for two good reasons—I guess!

There was a young flapper named May. Who took a mean bale of hay, Though not a Hawaiian. She was always trying To out-wiggle our own Gilda Gray.

During 1926 the state of Pennsylvania planted over ten thousand shade trees along the trunk-line roads of the state.

REV. CANIPE DECLINES CALL TO BOON CHURCH

Rev. J. C. Canipe, evangelist for the Baptist state mission board, has for the second time declined the pastorate of the Boone Baptist church, which has been vacant since the resignation of Rev. F. M. Higgins. Mr. Canipe conducted a very successful revival here last fall and a personal invitation was extended him after the first offer was declined.

The church committee, it is understood, has other calls under consideration.

Paying for Fun An Irishman was before a judge on the charge of beating his wife. The judge looked down at him and said: "That will cost you exactly \$2.20." "And, please, Serr, what is the 20 cents for?" "Federal tax on amusement."

It is not much trouble to poison cutworms as a little poisoned and sweetened bran will do the work.

Going Out of Business?

NO; BUT THE VALUES WE ARE OFFERING DURING THIS SALE CERTAINLY MAKES YOU THINK SO!

BEGINNING

Monday Morning, April 11th

ONE WHOLE WEEK IN WHICH TO SUPPLY YOUR EVERY NEED FOR SPRING AT MUCH LESS THAN YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTING TO PAY.

You may have all you want of that famous DURID L L 4-Yard SHEETING, while it lasts at 10c

We have one lot of Gingham, 25 inches wide, at 7 1/2c

We have one lot of Gingham, 32 inches wide, at 10c

Yes and we actually have a 36-inch Domestic for the sum of only 8 1/2c

Dress Shirts, all the way from 75c to \$2.50 If you can't find what you want here you surely are hard to please.

Overalls, a 220 Denim, at \$1.15

We think a DUCKHEAD made of 8-oz. Denim that won't shrink, is the best one made at \$1.80

We want to sell every man's and boys' Suit in the store and we are marking them down 20 to 50 per cent. If you need a suit look these over. We may have the very thing you want.

We have Roony Richard and Uncle Sam Work Shirts in sizes 14 1/2 to 17 for .75c Extra sizes 18 to 20, for .85c

For the Ladies we have that new pair of Shoes, the Silk Hose to match, the pretty Hat, too, that they will want for Easter Sunday. And the values are unbeatable.

Come along, bring the Eggs and Chickens. They go the same as cash. In fact we always pay cash for them if you want it.

Plows and Repairs, Fertilizers, Seed Oats, Grass Seed (we won't handle any but the best, all waiting for you.

We'll be glad to see you whether you buy or not, but if you come we know you'll find values you can't possibly pass by.

Remember the Date--April 11 to 16, Inclusive

VALLE CRUCIS COMPANY

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A FEW AUTOMOBILE LAWS

Any driver of an automobile who fails to stop to render first aid to any person he has injured or to any car he has struck should be sent to prison for two years. In the case of the injured person being killed or dies from the injury the driver who struck him and failed to stop to render first aid should be sent to the penitentiary for 15 years without the possibility of pardon.

Any driver of an automobile who attempts to pass or does pass between two automobiles going in opposite direction or between a vehicle and an automobile going in opposite directions should be imprisoned one year.

Any driver who throws out a dust screen or a smoke screen to obstruct the view of any pursuing officer should be sent to the penitentiary for five years.

Thousands of cars are running without lights. The one-light car is dangerous because you can hardly tell which side of the road the car is on. Lots of drivers cut off one light purposely and many of them do not try to get an extra light. They know they are violating the law and can get by with it.

They do this because the officers refuse to arrest them.

There must be in Union county at this time one hundred cars that are operated without a license tag. And judging from the number using "demonstration tags" there must be forty thousand demonstrations in the state. Some of them will never purchase a tag when they know the police officer is not on his job.

An engineer has to serve an apprenticeship, stand rigid examinations and show competency before the railway companies will let him run a train, even though he has rails to guide him and his path is well known to all.

Any reckless fool, negro chap or other mentally incompetent is turned loose on the highway without a track, guide or definite path, to kill, maim, destroy property, etc.

An automobile is now considered a deadly weapon.

One of our superior court judges

has recently decided that in case of an accident or a collision on the highway one party or the other is violating the law and is entirely liable, unless both parties are violating the law.

You will notice that when a child or some other helpless person is run over and killed, after a rather casual inspection by some officer the accident is usually pronounced unavoidable.

Nearly all of these accidents are avoidable.

A careful, law-abiding driver very seldom injures any one.

While visiting the large municipal hospital in Havana, Cuba, I asked one of the Spanish nurses if they had many injuries from automobile accidents.

She said hardly any cases of this kind, but many cases of injury from stab wounds and gun shot wounds caused by liquor. At this very time a young Spaniard lay dying at the hospital from a lung stab followed by traumatic pneumonia.

In Havana they have no speed laws. There are five thousand Fiats for hire and five thousand privately owned cars.

The Cuban driver fairly splits the wind when he has a clear way. When he comes to crossings or sees some one crossing ahead of him he slows down and flags the crossing or the person crossing.

He seldom hits any one—not even the most careless jay-walker.

With the same care and the same regard for the life of the pedestrian a North Carolina driver could do just as well as the Cuban driver.

Sometime ago a representative of the State Automobile Association came around soliciting members.

I told him if the association would sponsor and put over a rigid law to stop those incompetent in mind and character from driving cars, I should like to join the association.

Nearly all accidents and nearly all injuries are avoidable.—H. D. Stewart.

He: "Pardon me, has your dress slipped off or am I seeing things?" She: "Both."

HAIL CHEVROLET

Hail Chevrolet, my Chevrolet! Dependable, by night or day—Economy, equipped fully, You're the lowest price of all, My Chevrolet.

Hail Chevrolet, my Chevrolet! Your fine stream lines are all okay; In all my dreams, your quality gleams, You're the apple of my eye, My Chevrolet.

BOONE CHEVROLET COMPANY

SALES AND SERVICE BOONE, N. C.