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How to Manage Your Corn Land

A VERY SENSIBLE LETTER FROM THE PEN OF
I. G. ROSS, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CORN
PLANTER OF STOKES COUNTY.

The first and most important thing with corn is good seed. The way I prepare my seed is by selecting the grains, best and nearest to a perfect type—ones that contain as nearly as possible all the good elements that can be gotten in corn.

After picking, then comes planting. I have the land well manured and run my rows off 3 1/2 feet and plant the most perfect grains in every third row and the ones that are not so perfect I plant in the others, and work all alike, and when it comes in tassel I cut all the tassels out of the inferior rows and if there are any inferior stalks in my best rows I cut the tassels out of them. By doing this I get the seed from the best and most perfect type of grain.

This is my preparation for seed. Now I have my seed and the next thing to consider is the soils and water. Upon examining the soil, I find that it contains large quantities of plant food, but they are all in an insoluble state, or locked up from the plant, so it can't feed on it. Now one very important thing to do is to unlock this food that the plant must have. I must either buy fertilizers with this food ready unlocked or I must unlock this large stock that is already in the soil. Upon examination I find there are three things that will unlock this plant food: that is lime, tillage, and vegetable matter known as humus,—and of the three, the humus is best. Now the first thing is how to get this humus. I can't keep the stock to make barnyard manure to cover all the land that I want to plant in corn. The next best thing is to grow it on the land. Now comes the great test—what shall I grow? My land is so exhausted of humus I can't grow red clover. The next best thing is the cowpeas, which will furnish a large amount of humus and also nitrogen—if I could let the vines remain on the land, but I wanted them for cow feed, so I used a fertilizer heavily impregnated with potash. Out the vines off for hay and prepare the land for wheat. After the wheat is cut, I prepare the land and sow at the rate of 15 pounds of Crimson clover seed to the acre about the 20th of August. Then I get all the manure I can and spread on the clover, cleaning out my stables every time they get full, covering the ground lightly, as I find that it is a loss to put it too thick, as it locks itself up and crops don't get it, and it would require more humus to unlock that. Now the manure, while it is furnishing a large quantity of plant food, is also unlocking as much as it furnishes; besides, it is a great water reservoir. Land that has a liberal amount of manure upon it reserves a lot more water than land that has no manure.

After getting out all the manure, the next thing comes the following. I turn the clover under when it is in full bloom and if it is not too dry I can re-plant the land in about 15 days and I keep that up until I get the land in a condition that I can run my planter over the land and do good work planting it 17 inches apart. As soon as the corn is up good I begin plowing with a cultivator and keep that up as long as I think I derive any benefit from it.

When it gets ripe most people pull fodder. I cut it and put in shocks and let it stay until it gets cured. I stick my corn in the field and haul the shocks to the

barn where the cows can get them. The corn is easily managed. Hauling the shocks before the corn comes off is heavy work.

The next thing to do is to feed my land. Some people say their land needs rest. My land don't get tired, it gets hungry, and I feed it by sowing five pecks of rye. Next spring I turn that under to start my year's crop again.

The most important thing for us to consider in the making of corn is the humus in the land. There is no need for us to buy fertilizers in such large quantities until we have used more of the mineral matter that we have stored in our lands, that we bought by the acre.—I. G. Ross, of Stokes county, in Progressive Farmer.

Why the Sons Of Farmers Are Discontented.

One of the reasons why so many farmers' sons leave the farm and seek employment and opportunities in the city is the chronic dissatisfaction displayed by not a few farmers in every agricultural community.

It is not an uncommon thing for farmers to express themselves upon the slightest pretext, as dissatisfied with their condition in life. They complain that their work is too hard and the profits too small. They wait at the capitalists because these men have more money, and make more money than they do. They will point to some lucky man who left the farm, years ago and became a successful business man of the city. Yet they seldom ever think of the hundreds of men who forsook the farm and went to the city and never achieved anything more in the way of fame and wealth than those who were content with agricultural life and who are far better off today.

How can a farmer boy listen to these complaints and comparisons without having lasting impressions made upon his young mind, which later prejudice him against the farm life? Some pessimism displayed by the father is bound to create in the boy a decided distaste for the farm and everything connected with it.

In these days farmers cannot afford to allow this disposition to get the upper hand. Times for the farmer have changed for the better and the time will doubtless never come when his business will be seriously molested, even in the worst of panics. People must live, and in order to live they must have food and clothing, and the farmer must supply these essentials.

This is the period of education towards the farm. Every profession and business is planning to aid the farmer and contribute to his success. The boy on the farm wants a chance. More bright boys are needed on the farm to take the place of their fathers. Optimism, on the farmer's part, will brighten the boy's life and this will go a long way towards keeping him on the farm.

Land For Sale In Southeast Missouri.

8000 acres timbered land at from \$2.00 to \$10.00 per acre; 2,000 acres of farm land at from \$5.00 to \$20.00 per acre. Good climate, good railroad facilities; from 8 to 10 months public school each year. If you want to buy, address

H. F. HUTCHENS,
Elliott, Mo.
Feb 7-3 mo

WAY DOWN SOUTH IN DIXIE.

Walter Smith, a Former Stokes Boy, Writes Interestingly—Indiana the Best State and Mississippi the Worst.

Holly, Miss., Feb. 22.

Mr. Editor;

As I am a former resident of Stokes county, I would like to occupy a small place in your paper. I am a subscriber to the Reporter, and often see letters from people who have left Stokes county and gone to all parts of the United States. I left old Stokes about six years ago and have been in 24 states. And to my judgment, Indiana is the best state I was ever in and Mississippi is the worst. Indiana is a great farming country, the land will produce from 20 to 80 bushels of wheat to the acre, and from 40 to 100 bushels of corn to the acre. Wheat is threshed on a very different plan to the way it is threshed in North Carolina. First, it is cut with a reaper and binding machine, and then shocked and stands till dry and hauled to the machine and thrown off of the wagon into the machine with a pitch fork. It has self-feeders that cut the bands and feed the wheat into the machine. Instead of taking a half bushel and a lead pencil and tally stick to measure, they have a weigher that weighs and tallies every bushel that goes through the machine and runs it into the wagon bed. The corn is shocked on the stalk, while some is cut and shocked and when dry it is run through a machine and shocked and the corn put in the wagon bed.

In Mississippi I find a great difference in farming. In the valley it is thickly settled with negroes. They raise lots of cotton and cultivate the land about the same as they do in North Carolina. There are a lot of saw mills and they employ a good many negroes. There is a lot of timber, but it will not last long, as I can hear 8 or ten saw mill whistles every morning. A saw mill is not considered much if it don't saw 20,000 feet of lumber in a day. The country is very warm in winter. We have not had any snow this winter and not cold enough to snow. The people have chills and malarial fever and in other words it is very unhealthy and disagreeable. In summer the mosquitos will eat a fellow and in the winter the water and mud is bad.

In December we had a rain that continued for four days and nights and I never saw any land for five days which was not covered in water.

There is lots of game in this country—squirrels, foxes, coons, deer, bear, wolves, panthers and wild cats, and rattlesnakes to an everlasting finish.

WALTER SMITH.

GERMANTON ROUTE 1.

Germanton Route 1, Feb. 29.—Farmers of this section are about through burning plantbeds and are gone to fishing. Some boys the other day caught six fish, and I tell you they were large ones. The largest one was one and a half inches long and the other was so large that they could not "toat" them.

Mr. Jeff Boles went to see his best girl Sunday. The old lady ask him if they raised a lot of poultry. He says that they sowed a right smart of seed, but the chickens scratched them all up.

There will be prayer meeting at Friendship Saturday night. Everybody invited to come out and be with us.

We are sorry to note the sad death of aunt Nancy Lawson, who died Sunday night, but we are glad she died for Christ.

PLOUGH BOY.

WESTFIELD ROUTE 1.

Farmers Busy Burning Plant Land And Fixing For Large Crop Of Tobacco—A Lot Of Grippe—Other Items.

Westfield Route 1, March 1.—Farmers in this section are very busy burning plant land and fixing for a large crop of tobacco.

There is a lot of grippe in this neighborhood.

Mr. E. M. Anderson left this morning for McLurran, Surry county, to teach a writing school. We wish Mr. Anderson much success. He is a nice young man and a fine penman.

Will close, wishing the Reporter and its readers much joy.

MILBURN SECURES CONTRACT.

Rockingham County To Have A Fine, Modern Court House At Wentworth.

Spray, Feb. 26.—Now that the court house matter has been settled to the satisfaction of all, save a few ominous prophets and a few fire-eaters, who are unburdening themselves of long pent-up hatreds and personal grudges and are endeavoring to sow the seed of future political discord and disaster, the county commissioners have accepted the plans of Architect E. P. Milburn, of Washington D. C. It is reported from Wentworth that approximately \$30,000 will be invested in the new court house and that the building will be modeled after the capital building of Ireland county. Fire-proof vaults and water-works will be installed and all other conveniences in connection with a modern court house.

It is apparent now that the noise of the battle has waned to a feeble murmur, that the people of Rockingham county feel grateful towards their Representatives and friends in the Legislature, especially Messrs. Preston, London, Manning and Wood, who stood with the majority of the qualified voters of the county and its board of commissioners.

News Of Patrick.

From the Stuart Enterprise.

Clerk Jno. S. Taylor has purchased the S. C. McIntosh residence on Church street. The purchase price being \$1,750.00.

Mr. Talmage Handy, of Shuff, came to Mother's Home Tuesday for treatment. He has just returned from West Virginia where he was hurt in a railroad accident.

An Independent Order of Odd Fellows was installed at Shuff last Saturday night with 24 members by some gentlemen of the Martinsville order. Quite a number of applicants have sent in their names and we predict a flourishing lodge at Shuff.

We understand that Mr. Eugene Lewis, the present cashier of the Bank of Stuart, Inc., informed the Board of Directors that he could not officiate on account of other business longer than the end of Bank year, which expires March 19th. Mr. E. A. Blackard, who has been the assistant cashier for some time, was elected as his successor. Mr. Lewis goes to St. Louis to take charge of a business he has in that city.

Quite a sensation was sprung in the court room Tuesday when it became known that all of the seven applicants, namely: F. DeHart, J. H. DeHart, G. W. Garst, Zach Murphy, J. T. Williams, Green A. DeHart and Pinkney Ayers, applicants to make whiskey in this county, would be hotly contested.

It is not clear at this time just who is behind the temperance move, but it seems they have prominent counsel employed to fight every application to come before his Honor. So far no license has been granted, and what the outcome will be, we cannot say at this writing, but the liquor men seem somewhat discouraged at the outlook.

King's Bill Killed By Legislative Committee

MEASURE PROVIDED FOR NEW OFFICERS FOR STOKES COUNTY--NEWS AND OBSERVER'S REPORT OF THE MATTER.

The bill framed by Mr. W. W. King and introduced in the legislature by Senator Buxton by request, had a hearing before the committee Wednesday, and was reported unfavorably.

The following report of the matter is copied from the Raleigh News and Observer.

Before the secret surgery of the trust bill took place, there was an open session with two bills introduced by Senator Buxton, by request, relative to Stokes county. The bills contemplated the appointment of four Democrats and one Republican as a jury commission and the election of tax listers, collectors and assessors by the board of justices of the peace of said county.

In support of the bill appeared Mr. W. W. King and the things that he said of Stokes were awful. There was a Republican ring, said Mr. King, which packed the juries, parceled the offices, and exploited the government generally. Mr. King was with difficulty held to the fifteen minutes assigned him and before he had gotten through he had accused the Sheriff and his brother, Messrs. Petree, both of whom were present, of practically every political crime on the calendar. Mr. King spoke of the campaign which had been waged in his county, of the apparent impossibility of anything except Republican success and he pleaded for relief. He accused Sheriff Petree, among other things, of having been in the fusion Legislature, and mentioned in connection therewith Dan Russell, Kirby Smith and other cruel extravaganzas of the past.

Things in Stokes, he said, were terrible. Scarcely any officeholders were intelligent except the one or two in the ring who were too wise for any use.

Sheriff Petree and his brother both spoke to the committee and they said that, though Republicans, they were fair. As to his fusion experience, Sheriff Petree declared that he had never voted for a single bill taking away the right of county government and had, in fact, "busted up" a caucus by refusing to abide by the result in this particular. He showed that the finances of Stokes were in good condition; that he collected taxes promptly and closely, and, according to statements which he exhibited, the Democrats have a fair jury representation. According to Messrs. Petree, Mr. King was laboring under the conviction of having been beaten politically; they admitted with pride that they had done it but could not see that their action justified reprisal.

Some time during the executive session, the committee decided to report the two bills unfavorably as "in favor of the Republican brethren."

During course of the Stokes debate the personalities indulged in between Messrs. King and Petree caused some apprehension among the committee and spectators who had been seeing and hearing wars and the rumor of wars. The gentlemen seemed to understand one another, however, and, though caustic in speech, were friendly in manner.

As Mr. King explained at the end of a particularly bitter period: "I may express myself forcefully, but I am not mad!"

One wondered what would have happened had Mr. King become riled.

Briefs Adrift.

Most of the public schools have expired.

Mr. Gaston M. Allen, of Germanton Route 1, was a visitor at the Reporter office Friday.

Mr. G. Wilkes Priddy, of Danbury Route 1, was here on business Saturday.

Mr. J. H. Hall, a prosperous farmer of Campbell Route 2, was here a short while last week.

Mr. L. D. Hole, of Campbell Route 2, was among Danbury's visitors Monday.

Sheriff R. J. Petree started out on his fourth tax-collecting tour Friday. He is at Dillard to-day.

Mr. H. A. Blair returned from King Route 1 Monday, the school he has been teaching having expired.

Mr. Jno. W. Baker, of Meadows Route 1, was here Saturday and called at the Reporter office.

Miss Mary Lewellyn, of Madison, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Jno. Neal, at Meadows.

Miss Mary Martin, who has been teaching at King, is expected home this week, her school having expired.

Messrs. L. S. and V. T. Grabs, of King, were here on business a short while Friday.

The next annual State Teachers' Assembly will be held in Durham. The date has not been given out yet.

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. Dellie Taylor, of Stoneville, died Sunday and was buried at North View church Monday evening.

Mrs. Gus Clark, of Campbell, was thrown from a mule which she was riding last Wednesday and had her leg broken just below the knee.

The Walnut Cove Hotel opened Friday with Mr. S. C. Rierison as manager. The building has recently had new furniture put in and has been repainted on the inside.

We are glad to learn that Dr. J. B. Smith, of Pilot Mountain, who was so badly injured some weeks ago by being kicked by his horse, will soon be able to resume his professional duties.

Mr. E. C. Sheppard, of Dellar, was here Monday. Mr. Sheppard has been right successful in getting the stock subscribed to the telephone line from Danbury to Stuart, Va. Nearly all of the stock has been taken.

Miller, Wolf & Co.'s store at Rural Hall was broken into and robbed Tuesday night. The money drawer was broken open by the thief, but some small change and stamps were not taken. Entrance to the store was affected through a window. There is no clue to the gnaty party or parties.

Winston-Salem people will be interested to learn that Piedmont Springs Hotel will be run next season by Mr. J. Spot Taylor, of Danbury. Piedmont Springs is a delightful resort, and has always been popular with Winston-Salem people, and now that Mr. Taylor will assume the management of the hotel, there is little doubt that the people who frequented the delightful resort in former years will enjoy its pleasures this summer.—Winston Journal.