

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

Address all communications to THE PILOT PRINTING COMPANY, VASS, N. C.

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1927

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00

Story of Tobacco In Ashley Heights Section

Work Commenced By Gales Johnson Results In Big Industry Around The Aberdeen Territory.

BION H. BUTLER.

When Gales Johnson left Aberdeen some years ago after several years of disappointment in his effort to establish the growing of tobacco in Moore and Hoke counties he perhaps had no idea that the work was moving in the direction of the final settlement of the whole region from Raeford to Aberdeen, but if he drives that way in these days he can be satisfied that if he did not profit by his work he left behind him a beginning that has since his time here brought millions of dollars into the community and will bring a many millions more.

It was my pleasure to know Johnson when he came first to Raeford, full of the notion that the Sandhills of the Aberdeen and Rockfish country would make good tobacco. He tried to interest the folks in Hoke county, and met with only fair encouragement, and one morning I met him going down to the station and he told me he was done, and was going home on the train soon due. Fortunately as he went on down toward the railroad I saw Worthy Johnson near the station and told him that if we wanted to start tobacco in the county it was necessary to keep Gales Johnson from going away, and with Worthy Johnson's help planting tobacco was be-

ABERDEEN AS A TOBACCO MARKET

Ranks in Its Prices With the Best Markets in the State.

While Aberdeen is not very old as a tobacco market, and not very big

Practical Notes on Culture of Tobacco

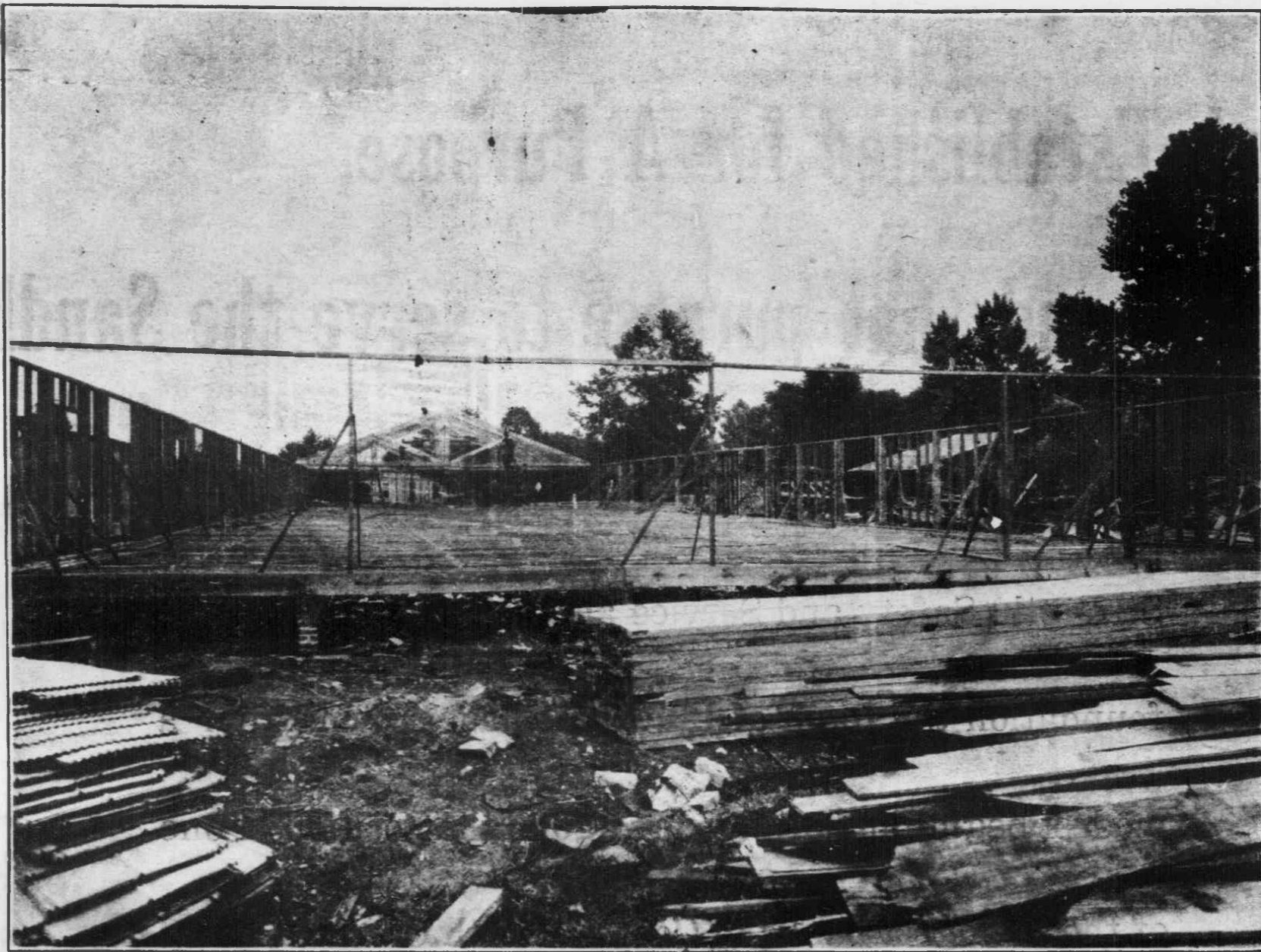
Experienced Man Gives Instructions As to Sandhill Farm Practices in This Expanding Industry.

By A SANDHILL GROWER.
Plant Beds.

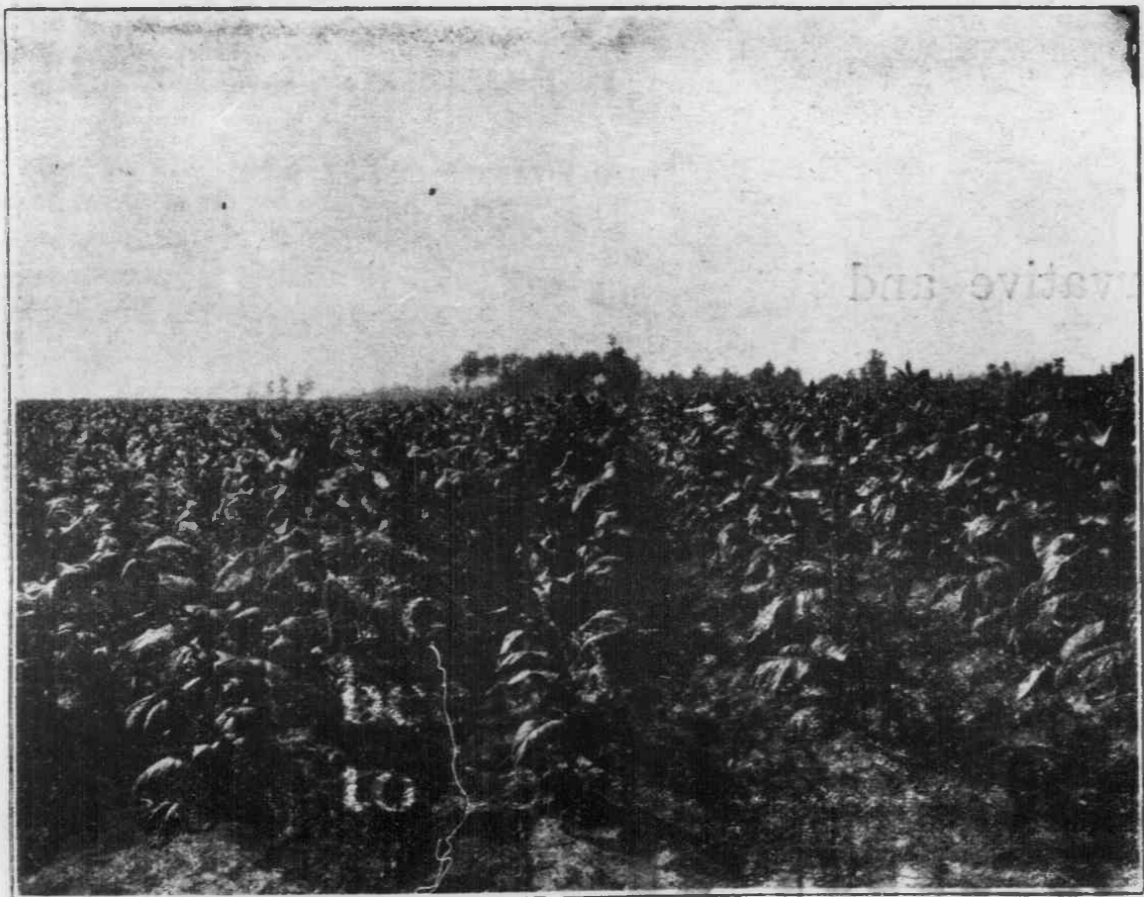
In selecting land for plant beds, much caution should be used to get best results. Moist land should be sought. A moist loam is good. Lots of land that looks good for plant beds will spew in hard freezes, and should this occur after the plant is up, the chances are that the plant will be pulled up and will die. It is better to sow a few more seed on this kind of land, say two or three weeks after the first sowing, so that if the first seed get killed the second sowing might get by the cold weather and make plants in time.

The best time for sowing tobacco beds in this section is from January 10th to February 15th. It is better not to sow all of the beds at one time. Sowing them a few days apart might prevent them all getting killed in the sprout just as they were coming up.

The tobacco beds should be well disced, then plowed four to six inches deep. Then all trash and roots should be raked off. Then sow smooth and sow the seed. Any good tobacco fertilizer is good for the beds. It should be from 50 to 75 per cent organic nitrogen in the Sandhills. Some cotton seed meal is good, but not over one pound per yard. For the average season it is best to sow



New Tobacco Warehouse Now Building at Aberdeen.



A June Tobacco Field.

et owing to the limited acreage that has been planted so far, it is making a good record in both the amount of tobacco handled and the prices paid. A comparison of the last two years shows a gain of almost 50 per cent in leaf handled, while the prices last season were such as were reached by only a limited number of other towns, and by no other place in this part of the State.

The old belt prices do not show up as well as Aberdeen, and it is a mistake for farmers to take their tobacco to the markets on the South Carolina border as prices there are not so compare with those obtained here at home. Last year the prices paid on the Aberdeen floors were almost a dollar a hundred higher than the averages in the State. This year much floor space will accommodate more tobacco, the new warehouse adding 15,000 feet of floor space, while the Saunders warehouses will

(Please turn to page 10)



Find the Man In This Field

gun around Raeford. But the year was unfavorable, and it was not much of a success. A little later one day Eugene Ashley, of Glens Falls, N. Y., who had bought the Leavitt lands east of Aberdeen, asked me one day in Raeford what he could do with the three or four thousand acres he had secured.

I told him to go and see Gales Johnson, and we went down to Tom Upchurch's farm and found Johnson, and the two started to talk about Ashley's land, and planting tobacco. The upshot was that after a conference of a couple of days at Southern Pines where Ashley was staying Johnson started to plant tobacco on the land, and to develop the big tract. But Johnson had overloaded himself with tasks and he could not carry the thing through. Then came into the game Banks Saunders. Saunders had come to Raeford with Johnson, and a mighty good lieutenant he made Johnson. When Johnson stepped from under the load Saunders took it up, and the result was that he made Ashley Heights a fact, and from that beginning has come an almost contin-

(Please turn to page 3)



The Sandhills Also Raises Corn.

from two and one-half to three pounds of good fertilizer per square yard.

About one large spoon heaping full of seed and mixed with a little fertilizer or dry sand, is the best way to sow them.

After the seed is sown, the beds should be tramped good and firm. A small amount of nitrate of soda may be applied after the plant is the size of a dime, but should be washed off unless it should rain soon. From three to five pounds is a plenty for a 100 yard bed. Fine stable or chicken manure is also good for young plants. Ground limestone applied on the beds at the rate of one to two pounds per yard is advisable, and should be sown with the fertilizer and well mixed in the ground.

If the flea beetle (or flies) should get in the beds and begin eating the young plants, sow cotton seed meal on them until the plant is yellow with it. This seems to drive them away.

Preparation of Soil.

A good type of soil is very essen-

(Continued on Page Three.)