

Farm Department.

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY.

SOME DRAWBACKS.

Writing under the above heading last week I mentioned Ignorance as the first of the three principal drawbacks to the farmer. I mention another this week.

2nd. LIQUOR DRINKING.—This is a subject in which all people everywhere are more or less interested, but I am discussing it only as it affects the farmer in a financial way. If you should take some statistics which are in reach of all and make some calculations you would be surprised at the great sums paid out for strong drink. It is an enormous tax on the people. It keeps things tied down. It prevents progress and we had just as well realize that there can never be any great prosperity for us so long as this state of affairs exists. If this money could be spent for good papers and books for the home, education for the sons and daughters, the best farm implements and other much needed improvements what wonderful changes would be wrought among us in the next few years.

The day was when merchants, doctors, lawyers, railroad men and even preachers drank, but that day has about past. Experience has taught business and professional men that they cannot drink and conduct their affairs so as to succeed. Employes have found that they cannot drink and hold their jobs.

You have heard it said "Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves." I want to change this a little for those who drink, and say, "Take care of the nickels and dimes and the dollars will take care of themselves."

A small leak will soon empty a barrel or hog's head. So it is with the drinking man's pocket book.

Weeds.

It will pay at this season to watch the weeds. Many of our worst garden and farm pests have a habit of making up for lost time, which is insidious and annoying. The same sorts that will come up early in spring and spend the entire season and half the summer in maturing seed, will come up in October in the southwest and mature seed before frost. Cockle burrs, and several species of amaranthus will produce a crop of seed when not three inches high, and many other weeds do the same. These nuisances possess wonderful vitality, as is shown by the efforts made to reproduce their kind by a hasty maturity when they have no other resource. The proper thing to do is to keep an eye on them, or two eyes, and when one appears attack it, uproot it, and before throwing it away see that it has no partly matured seeds. If it has, cremation or burning up is the effectual remedy. Don't put this duty off till tomorrow, for very soon the seeds will be matured and another crop next year will be the result.—Exchange.

The above is a little out of season. However, it is a point every farmer should get in mind. Troublesome kinds of weeds should not be allowed to go to seed. Around the garden, on ditch banks and on meadow land is where they grow best. Much valuable hay is lost because these weeds outgrow the grass.—Ed.

Asleep Amid Flames.

Breaking into a blazing home some firemen lately dragged the sleeping inmates from death. Fancied security, and death near. It's that way when you neglect coughs and colds. Don't do it. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption gives perfect protection against all throat, chest and lung troubles. Keep it near, and avoid suffering death, and doctor's bills. A teaspoonful stops a late cough, persistent use the most stubborn. Harmless and nice tasting, it's guaranteed to satisfy by Hood Bros. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

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Planting Small Grain.

The season for planting wheat, barley and rye is now upon us and it behooves every man who advocates the policy of living at home on the farm, to be active in getting his lands ready for seeding down in small grain. Between the middle of October and the last week in November should cover the period of sowing winter grain in Georgia and adjacent states, with the exception of oats, which crops should be planted between the middle of September and the first of November if a good crop from fall seeding is desired.

Unless the oat crop is planted early, and the plants given an opportunity to root out and secure a good hold in the soil, a serious cold spell in January or February is most likely to prove either fatal or damaging. With oats it has been clearly demonstrated by practical experiment on an extensive scale in all parts of the south, that if the crop is drilled instead of being sown broadcast, there is little or no danger of the roots of the plants being killed by the severest freezes we have in February.

It makes no particular difference whether the seed oats are distributed with a regular grain drilling machine or whether the furrows are laid off close together and the seed put in with a guano distributor. As a matter of economy and desirability the improved implement is best, but in the absence of financial ability to purchase a drilling machine, some effort ought to be made to plant the crop in close shallow furrows. Whenever any improved system has been clearly demonstrated to our satisfaction as being better than old ones the progressive men of the country should at once adopt it.

PREPARING LAND FOR WHEAT.

Land for wheat should be of fair natural fertility, and then manured according to the ability of the planter. Wheat requires, to make good growth and development, all the elements of a complete fertilizer, particularly that of nitrogen. It is a nitrogenous feeder, and analysis shows that a considerable quantity of that element must go into the grain to perfect it. The natural plant foods in any soil cannot be rendered available to the demands of plant life, unless the soil has been thoroughly broken up and pulverized. The nearer we put soil in the condition of an ash bank, the nearer we come toward making that soil open up its stores of plant food. Hence it must be insisted that the first requisite of the successful grain grower is to get his lands in as near perfect tith as possible.

Aside from rendering these natural plant foods available by thorough preparation of lands, it is a fact known to all farmers that the young and tender roots of small grain will more successfully branch out in search for what it needs, than where the soil is full of clods and hardness. I have shown in a previous article that in South Dakota where the finest crops of wheat in the union are annually raised, the soil freezes to a depth of four feet in winter, and while thawing out in the spring during planting time and later, it becomes fully pulverized to the depth. What nature does for the northwest we are forced to do, or should do as nearly as possible with the plow and harrow. Break the land as deeply as possible and then harrow until the soil is in proper condition.

Labor is becoming a serious problem on many farms in the south, and whenever it is not possible to prepare as large an area as desired, cut the acreage down and do well, that which is done at all. Better results will be obtained and a bigger and more satisfactory profit on the undertaking will be realized at harvest time. Now this question of preparing the land, both for the field crop and patches is a most important one and should receive the attention it merits. The average yield of wheat per acre in Georgia is entirely too low, compared with the possibilities of the soil and what has been and is being produced here every year by men who take a deep interest in that crop. The average should be easily raised from 12 to 15 bushels per acre to 25 and 30 bushels per acre.

FERTILIZING AND PLANTING.

In all of my experience in growing wheat on the red lands of middle Georgia, covering a period of the past 20 years, I am free to confess that no fertilizer has ever given me the results obtained from the liberal application of green cotton seed and I do not think any fertilizer formula for the wheat crop has ever been

made up out of any other material which is superior. But the farmers all over the country have gotten into the habit of either selling their seed straight out to the oil mills or else exchanging the seed for meal. As the meal is not in itself a complete fertilizer, it is necessary to add the other two elements of potash and phosphoric acid to make it so. Where a commercial fertilizer is used, either bought from the manufacturer complete or the ingredients mixed at home, the following formula has been tried sufficiently to recommend its use generally on all wheat lands in this and adjoining states:

Acid Phosphate (14 per cent).....50 pounds
Cotton seed meal.....50 pounds
Muriate of Potash.....50 pounds

Apply this mixture to each acre or reduce in proportionate parts. If kainit is used in place of muriate, take 200 pounds. In March apply 50 pounds of nitrate of soda broadcast per acre on the wheat as a top dressing.

The nitrate of soda imparts new life and vigor to the plants, and pushes the crop rapidly forward in its growth toward maturity. In planting wheat, either in drills or broadcast, the grain should be lightly covered. It is bad policy to sow wheat broadcast on unbroken land and then plow it in with a turn plow, trying to do two things at once, breaking and covering. Prepare the land first and then plant with a drilling machine, or if sown broadcast, cover with a harrow, dressing off with a common smoother or roller. A field of wheat, where the land has been properly prepared and fertilized, with the grain nicely planted, will always present an attractive appearance from time of planting to harvest.

There is no better variety of wheat for the south, and Georgia especially, than the little Georgia purple stem. The heads are small, compact, always well filled under good culture and the yield in every instance superior to other varieties shipped in here from a distance. Plant one bushel per acre, though some of our best wheat producers advocate one and a quarter bushels. Never plant wheat without soaking it a few hours in a solution of blue stone. One pound of blue stone melted in boiling water and mixed with enough water to emerse five bushels of grain is about the right proportion. There will be no smut in the field the following spring if this rule is adopted, as the blue stone will kill out the smut germ before the grain is planted.

SMALL PATCHES.

No farmer should neglect having an acre or two planted either in wheat, barley or rye, as a green patch for grazing or cutting during winter for stock and cattle. No home in the country looks complete without these green patches surrounding it, and no farmer is doing his duty by his stock unless he takes the time and pains to have this green feed in abundance for them during the long months of winter when everything in the pasture has been killed by freezes. There is no more beautiful sight in winter than fields of green grain. Aside from their beauty, they help in the commendable desire to make the farm self-sustaining.

During the past few years the farmers of Georgia have exhibited a disposition along this line which if persisted in will solve many perplexing problems and free them from dependence so much on the grain fields of the west. Roller mills are being built in many sections of the state, and in such localities I have noticed that farmers are independent of western flour, and that the merchants handle the product of our mills in all towns where they are located. These are hopeful signs and point unerringly to the not distant day when our people will once more live at home and enjoy the freedom of old time prosperity.—Harvie Jordan, in Atlanta Journal.

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