

SOUTHERN FARM NOTES.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

We Must Raise Better Cotton.

This paper has always advocated less land planted to cotton and less cotton raised; and it may seem to some inconsistent with that idea when we say we urge all to raise better cotton. But it is not. The cotton crops are big enough; even this year when it is supposed it will not pass ten and a half million bales. With that amount of American cotton and the price say, eight cents average per pound, the supply will be large enough to make cotton goods cheap. At least too cheap to work any hardship upon even the poorest classes. So, even if cotton planters are controlled by so philanthropic a motive, they need not plant more than a ten and a half million bale crop.

But no one is actuated by any such motive. The whole idea of the cotton planter, like the wheat grower, the corn grower and the stock grower, is very properly to do the best he can for himself. If he can be convinced that it will pay him best to raise half a crop, that is what he will try for. If he thinks it will be best to plant no cotton at all, of course he is going out of the business of raising cotton. But neither of these things is best. The best thing for every cotton planter and every farmer who raises cotton to do is to raise the largest crop that he can raise at the least possible cost. That is the essential consideration. It wouldn't pay to raise a thousand bales on any one plantation and sell it at even ten cents a pound, if it cost ten cents a pound to raise it.

This is a thing that every cotton raiser knows and will admit if he thinks of it; even, the negro renters admit it. But not one man in a thousand seems to think about it when he is planting for his crop.

The solution to this problem is the same that applies to every other crop; it is simply to plant less land, prepare it better, fertilize or manure it more with barn yard manure or cow pea rotation, and cultivate it better. This is exactly what is needed and there is nothing else that can solve the problem. When a big crop is planted, whether it is cotton or corn, it is bound to be slighted. If a small enough crop is planted to justify using a good application of the right kind of fertilizer in large enough quantities to do some good, or manure, or pea vines plowed under, and to prepare the land properly and cultivate at least three times as much as the average cotton gets now, half the land will make more cotton than planters are now getting and at far less cost; and there will be a chance to improve the land right along.

And what is most important of all is the fact that with less land in cotton there will not be such a reduction in the crop as was the case last year and again this year from drouth. Thousands of farmers demonstrated all through the corn belt last year that continuous shallow cultivation of corn, through the dry season, made good crops of corn in spite of the worst drouth ever known, while those alongside of those who did this made nothing but nubbins by the regular method of cultivation. In cotton it will pay even better than corn, because cotton is a crop that will go on making as long as the season lasts. Both corn and cotton should be cultivated flat, and in a dry season the soil should be kept constantly stirred with a shallow working cultivator. If there is a very large crop planted this cannot be done. If a moderate one, then all the cultivation needed in a severe drouth can be given, and the crop is a far more certain one and very much better, whether the season be good or bad.

There is need of more intensive methods in all the farming done in this country; it is needed more on cotton plantations than anywhere else, because at present the common practice is the worst in the country. It should be the ambition of every farmer everywhere to get the largest possible crop of every acre he cultivates; whoever does this will certainly prosper. To cultivate intensively requires close study, and the man who gives that succeeds. But any one who can command the labor can scratch a vast acreage, plant and cultivate badly and make a poor crop. What we need is more people who are trying to get three bales to the acre.—Tri-State Farmer.

The Best Fertilizer.

At the experimental farm of the State Horticultural Society of North Carolina, located at Southern Pines, N. C., a series of careful and painstaking experiments have now been carried on for several years, the object in carrying on said experiments being to determine more particularly the relative quantity of plant food required for the proper development of fruit trees and plants and garden vegetables of most all kinds. It would pay every horticulturist, market gardener or truck farmer throughout the length and breadth of this broad land to keep posted as to the results obtained from said experiments,

as they are pre-eminently reliable, strictly accurate and up-to-date.

We are most intensely interested in the relative agricultural values of each and every substance that we use as manure. The best is none too good. Speaking for ourselves, we have no way of judging the value of any single manurial substance used as plant food except from the actual visible increase obtained by and from its use. We want to know just how much benefit we may reasonably expect in a normal season from a ton of stable manure, a ton of nitrate of soda, or of cotton seed meal, a ton of phosphate, a ton of sulphate or muriate of potash, or of kainit, or from a crop of clover, or cow peas, or other leguminous crops turned under. Any benefit to be evidence must be determined in each individual case by the increased yields obtained from their use either singly or in any desired and required combination. We want to know which is best, i. e., the most profitable, whether nitrate of soda, cotton seed meal, dried blood or tankage as a source of nitrogen. Acid phosphate, thomas slag, florets or bone as a source of phosphoric acid. Or sulphate, muriate or kainit as a source of potash. At the experimental farm above referred to and under the conditions specified in their report for 1896, equal quantities of potash in the different forms indicate an agricultural value of the first rank for sulphate, second muriate, third double manure salt, fourth carbonate of potash-magnesia and fifth kainit.

Placing the fertilizing power of muriate at 100, the comparative fertilizer power of sulphate would be 104. This is their experience, but with us we believe the difference in favor of the agricultural value of the sulphate as compared with the muriate would be greater even than this.

A Temporary Fastening.

Take a piece of rope, which is more comfortable than a chain and does not wear the hair off as much. Attach a common snap hook to one end and tie a ring to the rope, at such a distance from the end, except when fastened to the snap hook, that it will not slip over the animal's head but fastens about the neck loosely. This



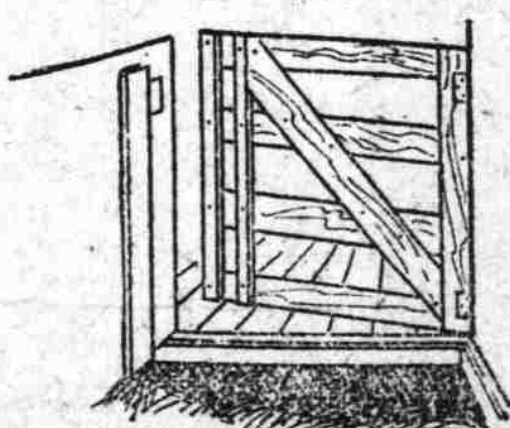
contrivance is quickly fastened or unfastened, and when not in use can be hooked into the staple with which the rope is attached to the hitching post. Nothing is more serviceable or economical for a temporary fastening where the farmer has no stanchion.—Harry Knowles.

Better Than the Art of Man.

A brood sow knows some things as well as anybody. She knows what she ought to eat, and if she can get to it she will eat it, and it will do her good. Hence a sow running in a pasture will not only have needed exercise, but she will get a bite here and there needed by her system and condition, and as a result will do better than if kept penned and fed everything that can be thought of. Animal instinct is often better than the art of man.—Texas Farm and Ranch.

Protecting a Trapdoor.

Where trapdoors are used in connection with a stairway, they may be made safer by the addition of a gate



which holds the door in a vertical position and with it serves as a protecting banister. They are usually near a wall, and by hinging on the farther side from the wall this may be accomplished. The gate is hinged to the wall, as shown, and when not in use folds back against it. At its outer end are two vertical strips just far enough apart to admit the edge of the trapdoor when raised, and a hook and staple hold the two together.—J. M. S., in the American Agriculturist.

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KEEP AN EYE ON your poultry and at the very first sign of Roup, Scaly-Legs, Bumblefoot or other diseases among your fowls use Mexican Mustang Liniment.

I have used Ripans Tablets with so much satisfaction that I can cheerfully recommend them. Have been troubled for about three years with what I called bilious attacks coming on regularly once a week. Was told by different physicians that it was caused by bad teeth, of which I had several. I had the teeth extracted, but the attacks continued. I had seen advertisements of Ripans Tablets in all the papers but had no faith in them, but about six weeks since a friend induced me to try them. Have taken but two of the small 5-cent boxes of the Tablets and have had no recurrence of the attacks. Have never given a testimonial for anything before, but the great amount of good which I believe has been done me by the use of Ripans Tablets induces me to add mine to the many testimonials you possess now.

A. T. DeWitt.

I have been a great sufferer from constipation for over five years. Nothing gave me any relief. My feet and legs and abdomen were bloated so I could not wear shoes on my feet and only a loose dress. I saw Ripans Tablets advertised in our daily paper, bought some and took them as directed. Have taken them about three weeks and there is such a change! I am not constipated any more and I owe it all to Ripans Tablets. I am thirty seven years old, have no occupation, only my household duties and nursing my sick husband. He has had the dropsy and I am trying Ripans Tablets for him. He feels some better but it will take some time, he has been sick so long. You may use my letter and name as you like.

Mrs. J. B. Spoor.

I have been suffering from headaches ever since I was a little girl. I could never ride in a car or go into a crowded place without getting a headache and sick at my stomach. I heard about Ripans Tablets from an aunt of mine who was taking them for catarrh of the stomach. She had found such relief from their use she advised me to take them too, and I have been doing so since and did not feel any better last October, and will say they have completely cured my headaches. I am twenty-nine years old. You are welcome to use this testimonial.

Mrs. J. B. Spoor.

I want to inform you, in words of highest praise, of the benefit I have derived from Ripans Tablets. I am a professional nurse and in this profession a clear head is always needed. Ripans Tablets does it. After one of my cases I found myself completely run down. Acting on the advice of Mr. Geo. Bowser, P. O. 222 Newark Ave., Jersey City, I took Ripans Tablets with grand results.

Miss Susan Wheeler.

Mother was troubled with heartburn and sleeplessness caused by indigestion, for a good many years. One day she saw a testimonial in the paper endorsing Ripans Tablets. She determined to give them a trial, was greatly relieved by their use and now takes the Tablets regularly. She keeps a few cartons Ripans Tablets in the house and says she will not be without them. The heartburn and sleeplessness have disappeared with the indigestion which was formerly so great a burden for her. Our whole family take the Tablets regularly, especially after a hearty meal. My mother is fifty years of age and is enjoying the best of health and spirits; also eats hearty meals, an impossibility before she took Ripans Tablets.

ANTON H. BLAUER.

A new style packet containing THE RIPANS TABLETS packed in paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (30 tablets) can be had by mail from the Ripans TABLETS COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (10 tablets) will be sent for five cents. RIPANS TABLETS may also be had of some grocers, general stores, news agents and at some liquor stores and barber shops. They banish pain, induce sleep and prolong life.

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TRADE MARK

Reading some of the testimonials in favor of Ripans Tablets, I tried them. Ripans Tablets not only relieved but actually cured my younger, the headaches have disappeared, bowels are in good condition and he never complains of his stomach. He is now a red, chubby-faced boy. This wonderful change I attribute to Ripans Tablets. I am sure that they will benefit any one (from the cradle to old age) if taken according to directions.

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