

IMPROVED FARMING METHODS

GOVERNMENT HELPS PLANTERS.

Various Campaigns Being Planned by Bureau of Cooperative Demonstration Work—It is Not Experimental and Demonstrative—Programme of Meetings to Elucidate the Interest of the Farmers—Government Agent States Each Individual of the Way He Should Go—Mr. Hudson Talks About the Requirements for a Fall Production—Drains One of the Most Urgent Requirements—Soil Must Have Plenty of Vegetable Matter in It.

Mention was made in The Observer some days ago of the work of the national Department of Agriculture in the field of giving to the individual farmers in eight counties in the State the results of experiments and teaching them how to utilize what has been about the best methods of increasing the productive power of land. C. H. Hudson, who is special agent for this State, stated to an Observer man regarding the effort of the agents. Following are the names of the local agents for the counties selected and the dates for meetings which will be held to interest the farmers in the proposition:

Local agents—Catawba county, M. A. Abernethy, Newton; Cabarrus county, A. H. Litaker, Concord; Gaston county, A. C. Stroup, Gastonia; Iredell county, J. A. Butler, Statesville; Lincoln county, R. B. Sullivan, Lincolnton; Mecklenburg county, C. E. Clark, Charlotte; Rowan county, J. S. Hall, Barber; Union county, T. J. W. Brown, Monroe.

THE MEETINGS.

- Meetings will be as follows: Dallas, 2 p. m., Monday, December 30th. Cherryville, 2 p. m., Tuesday, December 31st. Indian Trail, 1 p. m., Wednesday, January 1st. Marshville, 7 p. m., Wednesday, January 1st. Waxhaw, 1 p. m., Thursday, January 2d. Prospect, 1 p. m., Friday, January 3d. Unionville, 1 p. m., Saturday, January 4th. Harrisburg, 1 p. m., Monday, January 6th. Mount Pleasant, 1 p. m., Tuesday, January 7th. Glass, 1 p. m., Wednesday, January 8th. China Grove, 1 p. m., Thursday, January 9th. Rockland, 1 p. m., Thursday, January 10th. Cleveland, 1 p. m., Saturday, January 11th. Sharon, 1 p. m., Monday, January 12th. Newell, 11 a. m., Tuesday, January 14th. Shopton, 7 p. m., Tuesday, January 14th. Mint Hill, 11 a. m., Wednesday, January 15th. Elmwood, 1 p. m., Thursday, January 15th. Bryantsville, 2 p. m., Friday, January 17th. Vance, 10 a. m., Saturday, January 18th. Cool Springs, 1 p. m., Saturday, January 18th.

BEGINNING THE WORK.

Relative to the beginning of the utilization of the improved methods, Mr. Hudson said: "Every farmer understands the soil conditions necessary for a successful truck patch or garden, which are in the main as follows, to-wit: Deep breaking (plowing)—soil thoroughly pulverized—plenty of humus, vegetable mould or barn-yard manure, and good drainage. These conditions are just as essential for profitable field crops as for the garden.

The deep breaking for field crops should be done in the fall, and should not be less than eight inches deep—ultimately the progressive Southern farmer will try to average ten to twelve inches.

The objection is urged that to turn up so much poor soil at once will ruin the land. It is not proposed to turn it up until it has been sired a few years. The way is to use a common turning plow run at the usual depth; then in the same furrow run a second plow, a trifle narrower, just behind the first plow, using another mule or span of mules. If the first plow cuts four inches deep, the second should cut four more, making eight in all. If the land will permit, cross plow four inches deep thirty days later; then harrow. In dry sections the harrow should always follow the plow. Of course, cross plowing is not admissible where ridge cultivation must follow.

USE DISC PLOW.

A better method than the double plowing above described is to use a sub-soil plow or a disc plow, as neither of these implements throw any sub-soil to the surface. The disc plow is more economical, because it does the surface and sub-soil stirring with one instrument. "The air penetrates as deep as we plow. The deeper we plow the more plant food is prepared by the action of the air and more moisture is carried in the soil to withstand drought. Deep fall plowing then is a great aid in breaking up the compounds of the soil, in preparing plant-food, in storing moisture and in warming the soil for early planting. Where there is a winter frost deep plowing increases its effect on the soil.

"A thoroughly pulverized seed bed is a long way towards a good crop. On heavy soils the roller and disc harrows are almost indispensable to crush the clods and pulverize the soil. "If this is done four or five inches deep, so that the young plant can get a good start, with reasonable after care the crop is assured. A clod is like an unemployed hand—it holds its moisture and yields scarcely no plant food. The best seed has little chance in a poorly prepared seed-bed. A finely pulverized soil aids germination, increases the amount of plant food available, stores more moisture and is more rapidly penetrated by the air and the rays of the sun. Even granite rock, if thoroughly pulverized, will support vegetation.

VEGETABLE MATTER NEEDED.

"A third requisite of good preparation of the soil is to have plenty of vegetable matter in it. This is generally secured by turning under cow-peas or green crops of any kind, or using leaf mould or barn-yard manure. Vegetable matter makes a soil porous, friable, easily worked, resistant to drought. This vegetable matter called humus, absorbs and retains the food prepared in the soil by the action of the air and heat, and gives it off to the plants as required. It warms the soil, adding frequently several degrees of heat.

A REAL WONDERLAND.

South Dakota, with its rich silver mines, bonanza farms, wide ranges and strange natural formations, is a veritable wonderland. At Mount Cliff, in the home of Mrs. E. D. Clapp, a wonderful case of healing has lately occurred. Her son seemed near death with lung and throat troubles. Exhausting coughing spells occurred every few minutes, writes Mrs. Clapp. "When I began giving Dr. King's New Discovery, the coughing ceased, that he was cured, and he is now well. It is guaranteed for coughs and colds, throat and lung troubles, by all druggists. Get a bottle today."

and it facilitates the combination of nutrients from the atmosphere in the periods. More vegetable matter is especially important where the texture of the soil is so fine as to prevent the free circulation of water, and water stands upon the surface or in the soil so long that it is an injury to plants.

DRAINAGE.

"One of the most essential requirements for success in the production of field crops is drainage. Our soils are mainly of a close texture and require plenty of ditches to carry off the surface water and the surplus soil water. Frequently the plant food is vitiated and the soil kept cold and closed to the action of the air by the standing water in it. Whenever a freshly dug post-hole readily fills with water until it stands within six inches or even a foot of the surface, there is too much water in the soil. Field ditches for drainage should be located about two feet deep, and should have a good outlet.

"Drainage facilitates early planting and in a large measure determines its success by removing the surplus water and allowing the sun's rays to warm the soil. Write in capital letters where you can see it every day the following: "1. Deep Fall Plowing, properly done. "2. Soil thoroughly pulverized. "3. Abundance of vegetable mould; and "4. Complete drainage of tilled fields, lie at the foundation of better crop yields."

THE BOYS' AFFINITY.

Coming of Stock Company Precipitates Avalanche of Youths Who Want Passes—Have Only a Respectful Scorn of the Big Shows.

There is a stock company scheduled to appear at the Academy of Music next week and already the young hopefuls of the establishment, and their friends, carrier boys, copy boys, messenger boys, are beginning to troop into the Mule Pen and file requests for passes. When "Madam Butterfly" was in the city they were conspicuous by their absence, little Columbus Mills being the only one of the tribe with nerve enough to not attend at a grand opera performance, a request which had to be reluctantly denied because he would not agree to honor the occasion by donning so much as a collar, to say nothing of a dress suit.

With many, however, it is not much a matter of the fitness of things as regards the market price of tickets, as of pure desire and intuition. The average youth of 13 or 15 finds his affinity in a stock company. For weeks in advance he will know of its coming. The first information the writer had that one was headed this way came from the lips of such a suppliant. The leading lady is the object of his admiration, the villain of his unspeakable hatred, the leading man of his unlimited adoration, and the more prettily the flourish and the more recklessly the better, for the boy's opinion of him.

"Darn the good shows," said Willie Farrell scornfully the other day. "What do I care about a show that just's all talk? I want something I can understand. Give me a stock company or a musical comedy."

Willie is a peculiar one. Living as he does in a classic atmosphere, he admits from force of habit or by concession to his surroundings that the shows he does not like are good, in fact of a class above his favorites, though perhaps he does not understand exactly why, but he is honest enough in a moment of candor to give expression to the taste that is in him. Hence he, too, takes no note of the presence of Annie Russell or Otis Skinner, but sits up and takes notice when the stock company draweth nigh. Next week will be a joyful one for the tribe.

IN THE POLICE COURT.

Bunch Arrested Who Live on Fourteenth Street, But Only One Convicted of Disorderly Conduct—He "Fessed Up."

The Fourteenth street gang is becoming famous. During the Christmas time the bunch raised the mischief. Shooting was a common occurrence and the officers heard they were all drunk for days. Friday Chief T. M. Christenbury, with several assistants, went to that portion of the city and summoned to court yesterday morning Walter Broom, John Warren, Bill Helms, Walter Wallace, Charlie Doolan, Monroe Keesler, Sam Doolan, E. L. Johnson, Luke Wallace, Seb Hartis and Bob Martin and Tom Walker, charging them with disorderly conduct. It was a know-nothing bunch when they were placed on the witness stand and all pleaded "not guilty" except Walter Broom, who frankly admitted that he was guilty of many charges and told of his offences. The recorder suspended judgment in his case and the other men were dismissed, there being no evidence against them.

Maggie McMillan and Daisy Riggin for using profane and indecent language were each fined half the costs in the case. Hazel Kennell, a well-known citizen at the police station, was tried this morning for an assault with a deadly weapon on "Old Man" W. M. Armstrong. The boy was found guilty and placed under a \$50 bond for his appearance at the next term of court.

Mary Archer was tried for being drunk and disorderly. There were two cases against her, but only in one was she found guilty and fined \$10 and the costs.

Mr. T. H. Gatcher, for a violation of a sanitary ordinance, was fined \$15 and the costs in the case.

MRS. BLOODGOOD'S WILL.

"Over \$10,000" is the Only Suggestion in the Will as to the Assets of the Famous Actress Who Killed Herself Recently in Baltimore. Charlotte people will be interested to know that the will of Mrs. Clara Bloodgood has been filed for probate in New York. It is of particular interest in view of the fact that "over \$10,000" is the only suggestion in the paper as to the worth of the estate of the famous actress who took her own life recently in Baltimore, on account of a stringency in financial matters. The estate of the deceased consists of both real and personal property, and goes to her husband, who is given the prerogative to dispose of it as he sees fit.

Mr. F. O. Landis Makes Change. Mr. Frank O. Landis, who for the past 16 years has been traveling for Sharps & Dahms, wholesale pharmaceutical chemists, of Baltimore, has severed his connection with that concern and in the future will be connected with the Imperial Guaranty Company, of Norfolk, Va. Mr. Landis is one of the most capable and popular of the many traveling men having their headquarters in Charlotte and this notice of his change will be of interest.

SPRINKLING IN CONCRETE.

Contractor, T. J. McBride Attached Mr. Charles Wren Because the Lame Sprung His Son.

Alleging that he had waited as long as common courtesy suggested for an apology, Constable E. J. Gribble, attached Mr. Charles Wren yesterday afternoon in the court house. The fight took place at the foot of the stairs leading up to the second floor, and because the lads were plainly angry by the court house occupants who rushed quickly to the scene, the fight was finished without serious injury to either of the combatants.

Mr. Gribble had issued two warrants for Mr. Wren, charging him with a simple assault upon his little boy and also a trespass upon his property. Mr. and Mrs. Gribble were not at home Friday, having gone away and left their children by themselves. Mr. Wren got into a quarrel with Mr. Gribble's little boy sometime during the day and the father alleges that his child was used roughly.

Mr. Wren said nothing at all about the affair, notwithstanding the fact that he lived adjacent to Mr. Gribble. The latter adjourned to court yesterday and he sent officers for Mr. Wren armed with the two warrants. When the officers brought the defendant to the court house for trial, Mr. Gribble went immediately to the telephone to call his attorney, Mr. Frank M. Shannonhouse. He stated that Mr. Wren followed him from Magistrate Cobb's office, stopping at the foot of the sheriff's office in which he telephoned in plans for returning Mr. Gribble faced Mr. Wren at the foot of the stairs, and the latter called to him, saying that he wanted to see him. To this Mr. Gribble replied that he had given him ample time to make apologies and that he would give him no longer. He then landed a blow on Mr. Wren, who fell immediately under its force. He was being pummeled considerably when some court house officials ran out and pulled Mr. Gribble off. The two men then went to Squire Cobb's office, where the other two cases were taken up. Mr. Wren was fined \$7.50 and the costs in each of the two cases, but Mr. Shannonhouse, although he appeared for Mr. Gribble, asked that the fine be remitted and that Mr. Wren be made to pay only the costs in the cases, which was done.

They then went to Squire Elton's office where Mr. Gribble submitted to a simple assault upon Mr. Wren and he was released with the payment of a penny and the costs. Both the antagonists shook hands afterward and pledged their friendship. There had been no trouble previous to this between them, and both had been on friendly terms, Mr. Gribble being an immediate neighbor of Mr. Wren and also a renter from him. He felt, however, that he had a moral right to attack Mr. Wren for what he had done to his child, despite the fact that he was an officer of the law.

Some of the County Schools Open Tomorrow.

A few of the county schools will start up tomorrow, although the great majority will not begin work again until Monday following, which is January 6th. The county board of education granted holidays from December 30th till January 6th to all the schools in the county. Some, however, had been late in starting and wished to make up for the time lost by working during a portion of the legal holiday. To these the privilege of opening tomorrow was extended, the matter resting in each individual case with the teacher concerned and the "consensus of opinion" in the community.

In Charlotte the graded schools will open next Thursday, January 31st.

Money and the Permanent Street Work.

Just when the street work, the laying of permanent pavement and the endeavors afloat thereto, will be resumed is a question which is met by a non-committal shake of the head from almost every person questioned. The one proposition on which all will agree is that the city has no money and that some must be forthcoming before any more paving is laid. The question, of course, is up to the board of aldermen to which the service board looks for the money. The next meeting of that body will be held a week from tomorrow night.

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WHEN SPRINKLED TO SUIT.

Improvement Suggests To-Day at First Presbyterian Church.

Monday, December 23, at New York who is a visitor in the city, a guest of Mrs. E. W. Thompson, in District, will sing at both services at the First Presbyterian church to-day. The musical programme is as follows: Morning services—Organ prelude, Cantata No. 1 (second movement), Gullmanti, anthem, "Break Forth In Joy," E. Stange; offering, solo, "The Publican," Van de Water, Miss Penfield. Evening service—Organ prelude, "Hosanna," Paul Watts; anthem, "Behold I Bring You Good Tidings," J. Barnaby; solo part, Mrs. Byrd; duet, "Hark, Hark My Soul," H. F. Shelley, Miss Penfield, Miss Oates; solo, "Heaven is My Home," Savage, Miss Penfield; anthem, "The Word is Made Incarnate," Thomas Adams; solo, "The Ninety and Nine," Campbell, Miss Penfield; organ postlude, "Noel," Gullmanti.

When winds shriek high in feishish gloom, And enter winter with his key, Protect yourself from disease by free; Take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. R. H. Jordan & Co.

Evening Clothes If you wish to appear at your best, let your Dress Suit be identified with The Tate-Brown label. It insures a garment as perfect as human skill can devise it. Made to order in the tailoring department on the second floor, or ready-to-wear at from.....\$50.00 to \$65.00 The Tate-Brown Co.

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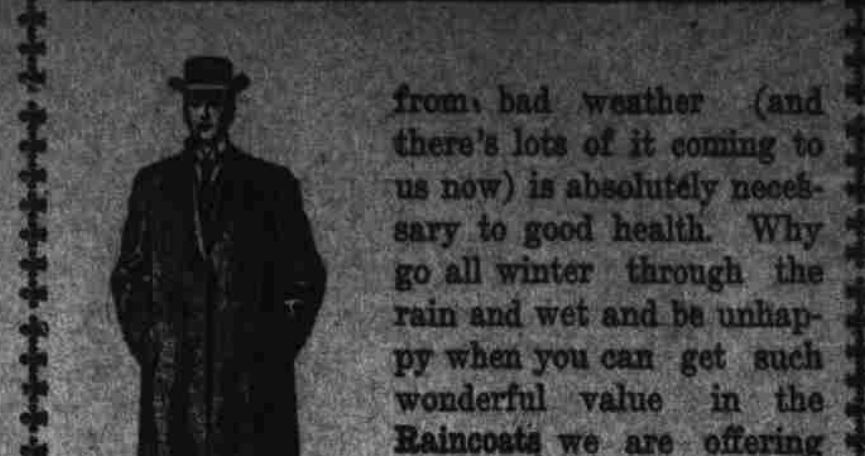


Previous to taking account of our stock, we are closing out many of our choicest pieces of carefully selected furniture at most attractive prices. This sale affords an opportunity for our friends that they should not fail to avail themselves of. Call and see this assortment.

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PROTECTION



from bad weather (and there's lots of it coming to us now) is absolutely necessary to good health. Why go all winter through the rain and wet and be unhappy when you can get such wonderful value in the Eaincoats we are offering now? We are selling lots of them, and lots of our Combination Coats as well, coats that are waterproof and look as good as the best tailored overcoats made. Let us prove it.

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THE WINNING NUMBERS

For the Cash prizes amounting to \$100.00

Will be decided Tuesday afternoon, 31st.

In the meantime get your drugs from us and further information about prizes ENGLISH-M'LARTY CO.

We are Over The Holiday trade now and are ready to get down to the regular routine of everyday business. While our "holiday" trade has been very satisfactory, we are by no means left with a lot of "hard stock" of odds and ends, but on the other hand we are prepared to supply all your wants from a Complete Stock of New Goods at Attractive Prices. A GOOD RULE to begin the New Year with—never buy a piece of furniture until you have seen Lubin Furniture Company.