

THE ALAMANCE CLEANER.

VOL. XVI.

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1890.

NO. 1.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

JAS. E. BOYD,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Greensboro, N. C.
Will be at Graham on Monday of each week to attend to professional business. [Sep 16]

J. D. KERNODLE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW
GRAHAM, N. C.
Practice in the State and Federal Courts will faithfully and promptly attend to all business entrusted to him.

DR. G. W. WHITSETT,
Surgeon Dentist,
GREENSBORO, N. C.
Will also visit Alamance. Calls in the country attended. Address me at Greensboro. Dec. 17

JACOB A. LONG,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
GRAHAM, N. C.
May 17, '88.

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Lessons of the Prize Oat Crop Contest.

The announcement in the last number of this magazine of the award of the prize of Five Hundred Dollars in gold, offered by the American Agriculturist for the largest yield of oats grown on one exact acre, in 1889, in North America, and of the minor prizes, has concentrated the attention of farmers upon the better cultivation of this crop. When we reflect that oats is the most extensively grown of any of the small grains (the crop of the United States last year being over 700,000,000 bushels, or 300,000,000 more than the wheat yield, and over one-third the bulk of our maize crop), and yet is, perhaps, the worst abused of them all, it is evident that the effort of the American Agriculturist to induce better oat husbandry is destined to have a far-reaching influence on our agriculture. To this end the methods pursued by the grand-prize winner (R. W. Strickland, Orleans County, N. Y.), as given in the American Agriculturist for December, are supplemented herewith by the results of a careful consideration of a few points in the complete and partial reports of the many other contestants.

THE BEST SOIL FOR OATS.

In by far the majority of instances, a level clay-loam soil was selected. The largest yields are almost invariably on soil of this nature, at least in the Northwest, in the Middle and Eastern States, and in Ontario. The alluvial river bottoms of Ohio, although also originally in hardwood timber, did not average as much as the clay-loam soils, though these bottoms, under good treatment, exceeded in productivity the most virgin soil of Oregon. A strong, sandy loam, under irrigation, in Utah, produced a large crop (nearly sixty-three bushels), and the average of the oats grown under irrigation in Colorado and elsewhere was also fair. These, however, are special cases, and farming on such soil with irrigation is quite different from the practice which prevails over a large part of our farming area. In most cases, also, the best crops grew on well-drained land. Where this was not accomplished naturally, tile-drains or open ditches were resorted to. On the other hand, many of the failures seem to have been, in a measure, due to the selection of too wet a soil. The oat is not so great a lover of moisture as it is commonly supposed to be—an important truth that needs to be realized by the many who persist in sowing this grain on naturally wet and undrained lands, with but poor average results.

The necessity of proper drainage for oat fields receives marked emphasis in the American Agriculturist competition.

MANURES AND FERTILISERS.

Whenever a clover or alfalfa sod was plowed down, either last year or in 1887, oats did well. A rotation with clover seems to be quite as useful with oats as with wheat. Stable manure was broadcasted and plowed under, four to six inches deep, in a number of cases with good results, but the best average product, where stable manure was alone used, is on fields where the manure applied was quite fine and was well harrowed in. This seems to well justify the theory and practice of many of our best farmers who hold that, although oats is a gross feeder, it grows so rapidly that to feed to the best advantage finely divided manure well distributed through the surface soil, is far better than coarse stuff plowed down six inches. Another important point is the conclusive evidence that oat crop can easily be over-matured. The first prize winner largely owes his great yield to the fact that the soil was abundantly stored with plant-food, applied the previous year or earlier, so that it may be said to have become thoroughly digested, and was in a condition to be assimilated by the plant to the best effect, going more to berry than to straw. This was not quite the system on which the second largest crop of 103 bushels was grown. It was on a strong Pennsylvania clay loam, well manured in 1888, and sown with wheat and clover; hay was cut in '88 and '87, but the heavy second growth of clover was plowed under that fall and planted to corn in the spring of '88, which produced finely, with no manure. Last spring forty two common sized loads of manure (about one-third from fattening cattle and two-thirds from well-gained work horses), that had been forked over until very fine, were plowed to a depth of six inches. But this store of well-prepared food below was wisely supplemented by drilling in with the seed (400 pounds per acre) of a standard superphosphate, thus affording the young plants soluble food until they could reach the manure below. In another case (Samuel Jacobs, Simcoe Co., Ontario), green cow manure and the scrapings of the barnyard, containing a large quantity of liquids, and therefore quite rich in nitrogen, were broadcasted in the fall of '88. By this means all the soluble matter is washed into the soil, and the coarse matter keeps the ground open when plowed in. This land had

been under an intelligent and not exhaustive rotation of crops for seventeen years, and now Mr. Jacobs truly says, that less manure would have been better, developing more grain and less straw, although the crop of seventy-six bushels was by no means a poor one. Evidently the clay soil retained the elements of the liquid manure, and the nitrogen thus supplied went mostly to straw.—American Agriculturist for January.

Fashion Notes.

From Godey's Lady's Book.
Fashion is certainly coming back to the lively shades of color so long discarded. Florida are decidedly fashionable this winter, even wraps are made of them. The feather box, coming up over the ears, takes for the evening the place of the fur bonnet. A charming silver gray brocade for evening wear has a large pattern of crescents and flying swallows in canalications of the most effective style. The trains of evening gowns are shortened; they recall the small round 'trains, called Louis XV."

For walking-dresses, thick rough-looking woolen fabrics are preferred, plaids and fancy stripes, also plain cloth trimmed with fur.

Diamonds are being set as combs, and a lady appeared at one of the last of the season's entertainments in a high Spanish comb encrusted with these stones.

Among the prettiest novelties of the season is the indestructible tunic. It is a sort of long redingote of fine cloth, very finely plaited, surplus fashion, with the middle part of the front and back, and the sleeves of plain, velvet; the collar and wristbands are of fur.

Small muffs, in the shape of plaited bags are made in plaid cloth to match the wrap, with quillings of ribbons round the edges, and a large bow at the top.

A novel design for a brooch is a miniature witch in diamonds, seated on a golden broomstick; another, a slight of moonstone-faced cherubs, with gold wings, touched up with diamonds; stars and stripes in colored enamel, set in a ring of diamonds, with the American eagle, in diamonds, perched above; a dead gold ribbon forming the brooch, with a diamond-headed pin run in and out of the undulations; two moonstone berries, with a true-lover's not in diamonds and rubies; the Edelweiss flower in white enamel on a golden stem, with leaf in diamonds.

A Bad Coming Home.

Shortly before that terrible flood, which almost wiped Johnston out of existence, Emil Etolus left Cambria City for his native town of Greenville, not far from Strasburg, in Allegheny-Lorraine, to receive a comfortable fortune, which he had inherited from a relative.

Etolus had been working as a puddler in the Cambria Iron Works for about two years previous to his departure for the Continent. He left a family consisting of a wife and five children behind him, happy in the thought that in a few months the head of the house would return with sufficient means to support them, if not in luxury, at least free of any kind.

After some trouble Etolus won the lawsuit necessary to get the fortune, and started for home with about \$20,000. He intended to go into some business in Johnston. He reached Pittsburgh recently, in the afternoon, and boarded the Johnston accommodation at 1:30 P. M., which took him to the place where he had left those dearer than all the money in the world.

When he got off at Johnston he was dazed, and thought he had struck the wrong station. He was looking around him in a puzzled way, when a man approached him and said: "I guess you are a stranger here, or have you been in Johnston before the flood?"

"I wouldn't have known it myself if I had been away for six months," as the man spoke, says Etolus, "I felt as if some one had pinched my heart with a sharp knife, and I fainted dead away."

When he regained consciousness he made search for his family, but they were among the lost of the flood, and to-day the poor man was here on his way to Allegheny, where he says he will live the rest of his days in solitude and sadness.—Cincinnati Commercial.

See Grain.

We cannot urge too often or too much the importance of sowing all unoccupied lands with winter grain. Where it is too late to sow oats, sow barley, rye or wheat. These may be sown during the whole of this month. When one is looking chiefly to the improvement of the soil, rye is the grain to sow. It is harder than any other, and it is deeper rooted than the other, and it will make more roots and stems than any other. In every particular it is a good recuperating crop—a winter recuperating crop.

We are very anxious to educate our farmers up to the point of sowing rye to improve land, just as they plant peas for the same purpose. In a country like ours, where the land has been deprived of its humus by long-continued cotton culture, we are not sure but rye would help it more than peas for rye checks leading in the winter, and about washing, in addition to supplying humus to the soil. There is little or no leaching in summer when peas are sown, and they contribute nothing to the improvement of washing. However, less, the pea has its value as a recuperating crop, and we would not discard it. We would urge the general and free use of both peas and rye. One does

its work in the summer, the other in the winter and spring. They are not antagonistic, but co-operative.

After corn and cotton are gathered, there is no obstacle in sowing the land they occupied in rye. The work is not occupied by other work, and the hands are not busy. If washes have started in cotton or corn fields from defective laying off the rows, now is a good time to stop them by sowing down the land and plowing down the beds. Left until spring, they will get deeper and deeper. Sow grain along the washes decidedly thicker, and apply manure heavier also, to get a thicker, stronger growth.

This is also an excellent time to lay off and establish the border terrace, both because one has the leisure to attend to it, and because if the borders are made now and rye sown on them, they will become quite firm and strong by spring. Each successive year's experience strengthens our faith in terracing as the best means of preserving land from washing. If it did nothing more than secure horizontal rows and level culture (which it does), it would be of inestimable value. Had terracing been practiced when the country was cleared, there would now be no gullied fields or gullied spots to meet or displease the eye.—W. L. J., in Atlanta Constitution.

Railroad Mileage of the United States.

From the Railway Age is compiled the following, showing the railway mileage of each State and Territory January 1, 1890:

State.	Miles.
Alabama	10,079
Arizona	8,515
Arkansas	4,424
California	9,455
Colorado	8,417
Connecticut	7,782
Delaware	7,769
District of Columbia	6,739
Florida	6,013
Georgia	4,901
Idaho	5,519
Illinois	5,440
Indiana	5,282
Iowa	5,252
Kansas	4,547
Kentucky	4,277
Louisiana	4,247
Maine	4,193
Maryland	3,138
Massachusetts	3,116
Michigan	2,793
Minnesota	2,784
Mississippi	2,651
Missouri	2,651
Montana	2,617
Nebraska	2,127
Nevada	2,119
New Hampshire	2,084
New Jersey	2,084
New Mexico	1,916
New York	1,717
North Carolina	1,615
Ohio	1,448
Oregon	1,361
Pennsylvania	1,323
Rhode Island	1,214
South Carolina	1,199
South Dakota	1,140
Tennessee	1,135
Texas	1,085
Vermont	1,012
Virginia	989
Washington	948
West Virginia	848
Wisconsin	821
Wyoming	815
Yukon	314
Total miles in U. S.	181,570

A BOY'S DELICTION.

The Boss Elected Himself His Captives and Then Only One Escaped.

At about (the age of 19) went to clerk in a country store in Indiana, and among my other duties was that of sleeping in the store nights as a caretaker. It was a great big barn of a store, standing at a crossroads, four miles from a town, and the owner lived about forty rods away. The idea of my being any real value as a caretaker was absurd, but the understanding was that I was to sleep there, and I did. I had a room upstairs, the corner being partitioned off, and I never got into that bed that I did not cover up my head and shake and shiver with fear until sleep got the better of me.

One Saturday night, after several hundred dollars had been paid in, the proprietor hid the roll in a tin chest, locked up the big safe and went home, leaving me to close up. When this had been done I got to bed, but about midnight was awakened by some noise down stairs. After listening for awhile I became sure that someone was in the store, and I crept out of bed under the belief that the big dark floor room would be safer for me in case any one came upstairs. There was a hatch or opening in the center of the room, and I crept softly to this and looked down upon the heads of three men working at the safe. They could not have known that I slept in the store, as no one had been up, and as they were taking matters as cool as you please. It was an old fashioned safe, and they had stolen tools from a blacksmith in town to open it.

"How much do you figure on?" asked one.

"Four hundred," replied another.

"What's that apiece?" asked the third.

All began to figure, and after ten minutes they made it out that each would get \$250. This tickled them, and they began work. It was wonderful how that old safe held out. For three long hours they hammered and banged and pounded, taking turns as they tired out, and about 8 o'clock in the morning they got in. They almost had a fight to see who should first pull out the money, and when it was discovered that an old sixpence, with crossed marks on it, and a bill on a busted state bank constituted all the wealth behind the iron door there was a moment of awful suspense.

Then they began to each other, and each robber, his father, mother, brothers and sisters had to take it. They called each other liars, thieves, swindlers, barn burners and everything else they could think of, and finally a three cornered fight began. In the struggle one of them was knocked unconscious, and the other two left him and slipped out. It was getting daylight now, and I went down stairs to see the fellow spies, and tied his hands and feet with a sixpence line. I had just concluded that they had opened his eyes, realized the situation, and worked a sweet smile to his face as he said:

"Say, bub, I'm awful glad to see you. I'm the Rev. Stephen Baker, of Lafayette, you know, and have wandered into this place somehow. I often walk in my sleep, but hardly ever go as far as this. My but, who will my congregation say if I'm not back on time, just throw the ropes off, bub, and I'll be going as fast as I can. The Lord and me love little boys. Can't you come to my Sunday school?"

But I ran and told the merchant, and the "Rev." was ultimately landed in state prison. As a reward for my efforts the owner of the store said to me, as he surveyed the ruined safe:

"Look at that! What a blunder did I pay you \$2 a month for, except to keep robbers off, and here you've went and let 'em off 'em again!"—New York Sun.

The Right to Thackeray's Life.

For convenience also a man is permitted within certain limitations which vary in various countries, to say who shall have his name on his tombstone. He can bequeath his money, and lands, his stocks, bonds, money, and books, cattle and bric-a-brac. But he cannot bequeath his wife or his children, for they belong not to him, but to themselves. No more can he bequeath the story of his life to any one's exclusive use or to disseminate that is not his own. That is part of history, and belongs to any son of Adam who cares to investigate and use it. The notion that the world's acquaintance with the man Thackeray is to be only so intimate as Thackeray might have chosen to permit is not sound.

What is told or said of a man while he is alive he is permitted to resist, if he doesn't like it, but if he tries to bind posterity not to explore his record after he is dead, he tries to control what is no longer his. What he did in the world he left in the world, and it belongs to the world; and if it is worth while exploring the world is perfectly at liberty to look it up at its convenience. History is the record of human lives and their results. Considering what Thackeray got out of history, he was the last man who should have objected that history should get its own from him.—Berkeley's.

Sanctimonious.

We are prone at times to boast of our sanctimonious industry in this country, but it should be borne in mind for the sake of accurate knowledge that, as a matter of fact, we have no sanctimonious industry in this country. We push a great many factories of a little bit which is a species of shrapnel, and pour out thousands of it, and people buy and sell under the delusion that they are eating sanctimonious dressed in clean oil. The only sanctimonious articles are those on a few sections of the coast of Europe, and the French sanctimonious have nearly supplanted the sanctimonious by establishing a reputation for sanctimoniousness of their fish and their oil, and for their sanctimonious strength of their sanctimonious, which powers sanctimoniously.