

SORGHO AND ITS PRODUCTS.

Editors Cornelia:—As the period for the maturing of the Sorgho, or Chinese sugar cane, is rapidly approaching, it may not be uninteresting to a portion of your readers to have some views on the manufacture of its several products—sugar, syrup, alcohol, vinegar and a beverage from the fermented juice analogous to cider.

It is a matter of some controversy at what period of its growth the stalk begins to contain sugar, and consequently when its manufacture should commence. M. Vilmorin, of Paris, who has given much attention to the subject, came to the conclusion that it coincided with the putting forth of the spikes; but the proportion of sugar continued to increase until the seeds were a milky state; and according to the report of M. De Beauregard, addressed to the Comice de Toulon, the ripening of the sorgho in that latitude had no unfavorable effect; and he considers the seeds and the sugar as two products to be conjointly obtained.

To succeed well in making sugar, or syrup of the first quality, it is essential that no greater quantity of the stalks should be cut at one time than can be properly pressed, and the juice boiled down to the granulating point, on the same day. I am aware that a different opinion has been entertained and acted on, but I am also aware that the result of this action has been the failure generally to make sugar at all, and the making of a very large quantity of inferior syrup.

The juice should be pressed from the canes as thoroughly as possible even if it should be necessary for this purpose to pass them repeatedly through the rollers, as that portion which is most difficult to be expressed is considered the richest in saccharine matter. It is necessary to filter the juice as it comes from the mill, in order to remove the cellulose and fibrous matters, and the starch, all of which is present in it when expressed.

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It must not be forgotten that sugar making is an art, and that excellence in it is only attained by close observation and long experience. What was necessary for the extraction of sugar from the beet root, from which France annually produces 120,000,000 pounds of sugar, is doubtless required for the sorgho, viz: a thorough study of its nature, with a process of extracting the sugar specially adapted to it.

A cheap and good vinegar can be made from the syrup. To eight gallons of clear rain water, add three quarts of syrup; turn the mixture into a clean, tight cask, shake it well two or three times, and add three spoonfuls of good yeast or yeast cakes. Place the cask in a warm place, and in ten or fifteen days add a sheet of common wrapping paper, smeared with molasses, and torn into narrow strips, and you will soon have a good vinegar.

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The urripe canes can be used for making syrup and alcohol, but will not yield sugar. The alcohol produced by only one distillation is nearly destitute of foreign flavor, having an agreeable taste, somewhat resembling noya, being much less ardent and fiery than rum. A beverage analogous to cider is also made from the fermented juice of the sorgho.

It should be recollected that to make sugar, syrup, vinegar, alcohol or cider, the juice of the sorgho must be first defecated or clarified by lime (three ounces of lime in five or six times its weight of water to each gallon of juice) and heat, and then filtered at the proper temperature, and with the addition of a little brewer's yeast or yeast cakes, the juice will undergo the vinous fermentation in from three to five days.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

This Argus is for the people's rights doth an eternal vigil keep— No social strain of Mata's son can fill his hundred eyes to sleep.

24] C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [291

WADESBORO, N. C.

THURSDAY:.....AUGUST 4, 1864

Price of Subscription, \$3 per year.

ADVERTISING—\$2 00 per square of ten lines for first insertion and \$1 50 for each subsequent insertion. For inserting only one time, \$2. Obituaries over five lines one dollar per square.

The majority for Gov. Vance, as far as heard from, says the Conservative, is something over 10,000. Not more than one half of the Army vote has as yet been heard from.

WHAT'S THE NEWS?

The news intimates that Holden will be beaten by so large a majority that he and his partisans will never be heard of more. They are politically dead, and will, we trust, remain so for all time, for they and he are alike dangerous to the State and the Confederacy.

We would, in the most delicate manner possible, politely ask the authorities, if they had not better leave a few men at home, to attend to the proper cultivation of the soil and to regulate home affairs. There are certain individuals to whom the people of our precincts are indebted for good order, peace, and quiet—whose examples and influence go a great way toward producing good crops—who are a hundred fold more useful at home than their single arms could possibly be in the field.

The Mountain correspondent of the Raleigh Conservative says—

On the subject of the war, our citizens are buoyant and hopeful. In all our rounds, we have met no prominent man, who declares himself for Holden. On the contrary, our people are indignant that he should claim their votes in preference to our Governor.

THE CURRENCY.

Our new Secretary of the Treasury has commenced his administration by the adoption of a measure which, we think, will improve our currency. He has authorized the Depositories to receive currency on deposit on call at 4 per cent interest.

A correspondent writes from the Yankee army before Petersburg: 'Here, as everywhere else that my observation has extended, the women of the South are our most uncompromising foes. The intensity of their hatred is really appalling.'

CASUALTIES IN ANSON COS. 43d N. C. T.

Co. H—Killed, none. Wounded—At Harpers Ferry, July 4th; H. J. Willoughby, in left hip. At Washington city, July 12th, Sergt John Williams, flesh wound in leg—left in enemy's hands. Henry Hall, finger shot off left hand. Missing—W. H. Forte.

Co. I—Killed, none. Wounded—At Harpers Ferry on the 4th, A. J. Diggs slightly in hand. Missing in action on the 12th, Richard Lee, and Evan Hudson.

Co. K—Killed, none. Wounded—On the 12th at Washington, Sergt. L. J. Kiker, flesh wound in thigh and hand, Corp. T. B. Lowtharp, in leg—left in enemy's hands. G. T. Boswell, flesh wound in knee. E. D. Caudle, flesh wound in neck. H. Wiggs, badly injured—left in enemy's hands. C. E. Tucker slightly in right hand.

Surgeons and nurses were left to attend the wounded. Corp. Dr. H. Crump, J. M. Smith, John Turner, Jas. Waddill and S. Gilmore were slightly wounded at Washington City, but are all now on duty. Boys, though much fatigued, are in good health and spirits. We have marched about 600 miles since the 13th of June—resting only three days. Only one soldier has fallen on us. Weather here excessively hot and dry. Our friends will please write to us all, directing their letters to us in Early's corps, A. N. Va.

CASUALTIES AT SNICKER'S GAP.

Wounded—Lieut. S. W. Elberse, severely in face, supposed mortally. W. J. Smith and Charles Eulard, of Co. H, killed.

Co. K—Killed: Joseph Phifer, Wounded; Alex Phifer, in leg; Thos. Harrington, shoulder, severe; D. Woodburn, slight; Lt. Jno. A. Boggan had his dress cut in five places, and his left arm injured slightly.

Co. I—Killed: Dargan Liles. Col. Wood, 4th N. C., Col. Owens, 53d, Col. Stallings 2d, killed.

THE RAILROAD REPAIRED

Passenger trains passed over the entire line of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Sunday. The track is now fully repaired and the road is a much better one than it was ever before, most of the rail torn up by the raiders being the flat iron, which has been repaired with the heavy T rail.

BRUTAL AND DISGRACEFUL.—We have seen a letter from C. H. Wolf, a member of a N. C. Regiment, to his father in this county, which states that the Yankee soldiers, when at Lexington, Va., violated the grave of Stonewall Jackson, breaking up, and carrying off the stones, and otherwise disgracing the premises. Mr. Wolf says that the Confederate troops were marched around the grave, and all saw the way the Yankee brutes had troubled the resting place of the illustrious Jackson.

DEATH OF A GOOD MAN.—The Rev. R. H. Lafferty died at his residence near this place on Monday the 18th inst. He was at the time of his death and had been for a number of years Pastor of the Presbyterian congregation of Sugar Creek. His death is not only a loss to his immediate congregation but to the community at large.

A RAID ON TROY.—We learn that a raid was made upon the town of Troy, Montgomery county, last week. The raiders were sixteen deserters. They carried off a small quantity of Government bacon, captured and carried off the arms of the guard which were stowed away in the building which contained the bacon.

BRIDGES BURNED.—Two bridges on the N. C. Railroad have been burnt recently just beyond Lexington. The first one was burnt week before last, and the other (over Abbot's Creek) in the early part of last week. It was evidently the work of Yankee emissaries or Tories. It is strange that the Railroad Company does not have a sufficient guard to watch their bridges and prevent these incendiary acts.

DESERTER CAUGHT.

Bob Revels, the notorious deserter, who has been ranging over this section of country for over a year, was captured on last Monday at his house in this county, by Lt. Pike, Capt. F. L. Hoke, J. W. Roberts, W. P. Dellinger and J. W. Sullivan. He was brought to Shelby and placed in jail, from whence he was sent to the army yesterday morning under guard.

CAMP SCENES.

In the month of September, 1862, my regiment was stationed at Franklin, Va., on the Blackwater River, a dull, sluggish stream, suited only for yankee gunboats, alligators and cypress knees. While enjoying quiet and repose in the swamps, the news suddenly spread through camp, like fire to lighted tow, that three gunboats were paying us a visit.

By this time the hospital steward having arisen, is assailed by the uneasy man. 'Mr. Steward, I'll go back and tell that Englishman I'm excused any way, and you mustn't say anything about it.'

During the day, grape shot, shell, and solid balls frightened many a solemn looking owl, and caused the frogs to lie close to the tussocks. Many were the hair-breath escapes, but the gunboats were whipped. When the shades of night had covered the earth, my friend James Meccab, while drying his clothes around a blazing camp fire, thus narrated his day's adventure.

Well, fellows, we've had a tight time to-day. My company was drawn up where the shells flew thickest. Our officers were sent for on business, and every man left to take care of himself. Each sought a tree, and being rather small, I was crowded out for a time, but I noticed one big cypress sheltering three men one on top of the other. The bottom one was a very small man, but he didn't grant or complain at all, and I assure you he looked flat.

After trying two or three times and the bombs continuing to fly thicker and faster, I finally settled down behind a little pine, five inches in diameter, placing the centre of my trunk exactly against the centre of the pine, and turning my pedal extremities as near the way the bombs didn't come from, as possible. I hugged mother earth and watered out. A man in a burred condition, (as the Doctors would say) is about five inches through, but I think every shell caused me to shrink one.

It was serious. While trying my best to grow less than I am, I heard a rustling in the leaves behind me; but I couldn't turn over to see what was the matter. Presently, the rustling becoming louder, and it being a snaky place, I thought it might be a snake, and began to stretch one eye round without moving my head from the centre of my pine.

I tried a few kicks to keep him from advancing up my boot legs; still the fiery eyes glared upon me, the forked tongue flew like lightning, and the bombs whistled closer and closer. I spotted a comrade a few feet off, and asked assistance.

A week filled up with selfishness, and a Sabbath stuffed full of religious exercises, will make a good Pharisee, but a poor Christian.

GAMMA. July 22, 1864.