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RURAL ECONOMY.

"May your rich soil,
Exuberant, nature's better blessings pour
O'er every land."

From the Southern Cultivator.

Improvement of Worn out Lands by the Use of Peas and Clover.

By H. K. Burgwynn, Esq., of Jackson, Northampton County, N. C.

Having heard from various reliable sources of the great success of Mr. Burgwynn in renovating worn out lands, in North Carolina, we were particularly anxious to obtain, from his own pen, an account of his practice in this important matter, for the Agricultural part of the Patent Office Report. At our request Mr. B. sent the following able and instructive essay, which we take the liberty to publish in the Cultivator, simultaneously with its going through the press at Washington:

"There are large bodies of land lying in Eastern and Middle Virginia and North Carolina, which have been so much reduced by continued cropping, planting tobacco, cotton, and sowing oats, as no longer to pay the cost of cultivation, and are "turned out as waste lands." These really still possess a good share of fertility, and by a very moderate expenditure of labor, and attention to common sense principles of agriculture, may be reclaimed, and have their productiveness increased from 100 to 150 per cent. They can be made truly valuable; and I do not hesitate to say, as the rusult of my experience, that they will give a greater profit in the course of five years' cultivation than can be derived from any exeept our rich river lands.

This is the method I have adopted, and by which I have increased the products of such lands from 1½ to 2 barrels of corn to 4 barrels per acre. The increase of wheat is proportionably greater than that in corn. My system of culture is substantially as follows:

In the broom straw in which these waste lands always grow up, retains any sap, by which when turned under, fomentation will ensue, and cause the straw to rot, let the land, as it is, be plowed with the largest size plow, drawn by three or four horses, running as deeply as possible—say, not less than ten inches—and turning everything under. If the straw has no sap, it will not rot in a year; and in that case, burn it off, and plow as before. If possible, follow each plow with a subsoil plow, and go 6 or 8 inches deeper. This will make the stiff clay, which almost everywhere underlies our land, more open to the genial influences of the sun and air, and enable it to get rid of the surplus water of winter, and heavy rains in other periods of the year.

About the middle of June, following, when the weeds are about half grown, and before they have formed their seeds, sow the land broadcast at the rate of a bushel per acre, of any of the numerous varieties of peas among us, except the blackeyed, which, having very little vine, affords little shade. In all cases, I prefer those which have the most vine and ripen earliest. When the land has much of weeds or grass upon it, turn under the peas with any kind of plow, running not over three inches deep. If the land is bare of weeds, I prefer covering the peas with a large, heavy harrow, running both ways—first lengthwise and then across the beds. As it is important to give the peas a start over the weeds and grass, I soak them six hours in water, and rub them in plaster of Paris; and, when 12 inches high, sow plaster at the rate of a bushel per acre. This stimulates their growth, and they overpower the weeds and grass.

When about half the peas are ripe—not half ripe—hogs should be turned in to trample and cut up the vines, otherwise it is extremely difficult to turn them under. So soon as this can be done, the hogs should be taken off, for the peas are useful for shading the land from the summer's sun—a most important matter in all improvement—and giving to the thin soil a large mass of vine-leaves and other vegetable substances. From experience in the use of both, I think peas not inferior to clover (to which family, indeed, it belongs,) as a specific manure for wheat.

After this mass of vine has been turned under, you have a "pea ley," over which sow a bushel and a half of wheat per acre, and six quarts of clover seed. Harrow both in thoroughly, and let the work be finished by the middle of October. The return will, of course, depend somewhat on the quality of the "old field;" but I venture to affirm, that it will amply repay all labor and outlay, and astonish by the great results apparently from so trivial a cause.

I am familiar with the great increase of crops from the use of lime and clover, and I do not mean to compare the two methods of renovating land as equal; but, where lime is not to be had, there is no application that can compare for a moment, on well drained land, (if it need draining) with plaster, peas and deep tillage. No gold mine is so valuable as a good marl pit. I am, however, confining myself to interior districts, where neither lime nor marl can be had.

After the wheat comes off in June following, the clover, if sown early in October, will have grown so as to shade the land pretty well, even on waste lands I speak of. It should not be grazed the first year, at all; in the February after, top dress it with all the manure to be had, not forgetting to apply all the old ashes within reach. This time of the year (winter,) is best for applying manure in our country, where the hot sun acts so injuriously on a bare surface. The roots of the young clover protected from hard frosts and sudden changes, by the manure, it shoots forward with the earliest warmth of spring and smothers all weeds. When weeds mature their seeds, they draw upon the fertility of land equal to most crops. Clover gives a crop equal to any other, and is all returned to the land in droppings of the stock while grazing upon it. As proof of its profit, for three years I have never fed my working horses on grain or fodder, from the middle of May till the clover fails. They are turned on the clover-field after the day's work is over, and taken up in the morning in good condition for service. I have never lost one by this management; in fact, they improve from the time they are thus treated, and work better.

After the clover has been on the land for two summers, during which period it has dropped three crops of leaves and stocks, and thereby greatly improved the land, either turn it under as before, in September or October, for wheat, or later in the fall for corn the ensuing year. In the former case, you will find your land as thickly set as before with volunteer clover, which ought to remain as a pasture for the summer after the second crop of wheat comes off. If corn instead of wheat be grown, sow peas broadcast among the corn at the last plowing, soaking the seed and rolling them in plaster as before. After the corn crop, do not suffer the land to lie out." No error can be more opposed to good farming, than that which assumes that land is improved by "lying out" and permiting a crop of weeds to mature upon it. If we had duly reflected, this error would long since have been apparent, in the continued quantity of thousands of acres lying waste around us, not a whit improved by "lying out." After the soil has once been brought up by peas, subsoiling, or deep plowing and clover—all within reach of the farmer even in the interior—it will not again relapse unless the former barbarous and senseless practice of exhaustion and negligence be again adopted. If lime can be had, even at a cost of 20 cents a bushel, I would in all cases spread it on the land, after the first crop of peas had been turned under, to the amount of fifteen or twenty bushels per acre. This quanity will benefit the land and enable the owner shortly to repeat the application of a like quantity.

NOTE. BY THE EDITOR.—If the Agricultural Report (of which one branch of Congress has ordered 100,000 copies to be printed, and the other will, doubtless, order half as many more,) contained no other information than the above paper, from an eminently practical man, on the improvement of "Worn out Lands," we should regard the money as well expended. A very large share of the $32,000,000 annually paid into the national Treasury, is drawn directly or indirectly from the soil. Hence its preservation and economical improvement, are the most improtant of our public interests.

Sweet Potatoes.—A writer in a late number of Skinner's Agricultural Journal, gives the following as his method of raising sweet potatoes, and says, after satisfactory practice, he prefers it to my other. He has tried the experiment for three years, and his potatoes have been much superior to those raised in the usual way. The mode is at least a new one:

The yam potato vine blooms in August; in about a month thereafter they form a pod; the seed are then formed of about the size of sage seed, and of the same color. The pod should be gathered when ripe; or else they will soon drop. In the spring, at the usual time of sowing seed, I sow them in the same way I sow cabbage seed. They will not come up quite as soon, but will continue doing so through the spring. The plant is small and delicate in appearance, and should be drawn in a wet season, with a little dirt attached to it and transplanted. The leaf and vine have a different appearance from the potato usually, and the potato will be found to grow larger and smoother than usual.

Profits of Fruit Culture.—S. B. Parsons, in his recent address before the New Haven Horticultural Society, states that within a few miles of his residence there is an orchard of about twenty acres, producing about $2000 a year, the vegetable between the trees paying the cost of cultivation; that the vineyards of Dr. Underhill, on Croton Point, are said to yield a net profit of some $4000 per annum; that two cherry trees of his own yielded often $20; and that the profits of the great Newton Pippin orchard of R. L. Pell, at Esopus, are some $8000 per annum.

The Wheat Crop.—The Wheat Crop for the year 1850 will be the largest by all odds ever raised in the United States, and the effect of the abundance is already felt in the low price of flour in the Northern and Eastern markets. In New York the harvest is a bountiful one, and new wheat of a very superior quality, is flowing in from all parts of the country which usually finds a market in the city of New York. Ohio has outdone herself, vast as are her capacities as an agricultural state. We hear of several fields, which have yielded from forty to fifty five bushels to the acre. The late golden fields of Iowa, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois have also turned out enormous crops. Whatever gloom may attend our internal political prospect as a nation "the Lord of the harvest" has been a bountiful giver to our people. *Richmond Times.*

The Basket Willow.—The planting of the basket willow tree, in wet, waste places, or along the margin of streams, yields more profit proportioned to the outlay, than raising wheat or making butter; and when once started requires no further trouble then annually to cut the twigs. It is a shame to put it in print, and yet it is true, that annually there are larg quantities of willows for baskets imported into this country from Holland. We also import annually thousands of dollars' worth of baskets, ready made to our hands, from France and other foreign countries.

A New and Beautiful Ware.—We were shown on Saturday a new ware, which for beauty of finish and durability, is not surpassed by anything of the kind, within our knowldge, imported or domestic. It comes from the Bennington (Vermont) Flint Enamel Ware Works, and is composed entirely of mineral substances, without a particle of clay. It is thus rendered very strong and is fire proof; two very important qualities with housekeepers. Its beauty of finish and smoothness of surface is fully equal to the best China or Porcelain yet known. In addition to all these essential qualities, strength, durability and beauty, it is said to be afforded at lower prices than similar articles of clay ware. Its uses are not confined to the usual crockery ware, but the inventors make from it door knobs, daguerreotype frames, fancy brackets, letters for signboards, figures for numbering, and almost everything of the sort.—The right to manufacture it has been patented, and the ware will probably soon be brought into the market.

CURIOUS HISTORY OF THE TRADE IN PEGGED BOOTS AND SHOES.

In the August number of "the Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil," we find the following interesting history of the trade in pegged boots and shoes, and its connexion with agriculture:

"Some days since, in a store in New York, chance threw in our way a little printed "report," by J. R. Pitkin, 68 Broadway, David Stevens and John H. Cornell, "Commissioners of the American Union Company," formed for what, does the reader suppose? Why, for manufacturing "staple or pegged boots and shoes!"—Well, the curious facts disclosed in this report are, among others, that in December of last year, Joseph Walker, of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, who "made the first pair of pegged shoes ever seen in this or any other country," was still alive; and that he had gone on, making his pegged shoes and boots, for more than ten years, without competition; after which, while he was (as we hope he is) still living, the trade in the article had increased in his State to the amount of $18,000,000 annually, giving, as stated in this report, "constant, honorable, and profitable employment to 60,000 inhabitants" of Massachusetts! And yet, say the commissioners, the demand for the manufacture exceeds the supply; which they urge, should now be met by the proposed Union manufactory in the city of New York, with branches in the surrounding country.

"Now to a contemplative mind, how various and impressive are the reflections that arise on a view of facts coming thus casually under one's notice. The first impulse is, to acknowledge the benefit to society, from this simple invention of an unpretending individual; now affording, as it does, employment and sustenance to so many thousands of his fellow-citizens; and then one is led to marvel at the perversion of political justice which continues to be practised all around us in this boasted age of reason and of progress! For if, instead of inventing a process in shoemaking, which secures to his State a business amounting to $18,000,000, and giving employment and clothing and sustenance and education to 60,000 men and women, Joseph Walker had invented a rifle or torpedo, that would economically destroy 60,000 men in a day, no honor would be deemed too high—no reward too great—for the inventor of the death-dealing implement. Whereas, who cares for—who, beyond the village of Hopkinton, will ever hear of Joseph Walker, the inventor of pegged boots and shoes!

"On military men, some of them, be admitted, patriots in the true sense of the word; some of them, cosmopolitan vagabonds, without country or principle, and too lazy to work at an honest trade—men who volunteer or enlist, to march and carry death and destruction among distant and unoffending people; on all such men, besides their pay and rations, Governments are ever ready to bestow rank and honors, lands and pensions. And yet, could the rising generations be schooled and educated as they should be, in the true spirit of Christian civilization, and in any thing approaching to a just appreciation of the public welfare, (as they would be educated if the cultivators of the soil would compel the establishment of agricultural as well as military schools throughout the land,) we should then see public lands and public honors meted out in something like a just and politic reference to the tendency of men's lives and actions to *promote public happiness!*"

Strange Instinct of the Deer.

The large American panther has one inveterate and deadly foe, the black bear. Some of these immense bears will weigh 800 pounds, and their skin is so tough that a musket-ball will not penetrate it. As the panther invariably destroys all the young cubs which come in her path, so does the bear take great pains to attack the panther, and fortunate, indeed, is the animal who escapes the deadly embrace of this black monster. The following exciting and interesting scene is related by an eye-witness:

A large deer was running at full speed, closely pursued by a panther. The chase had already been a long one, for as they came nearer, I could perceive both their long parched tongues hanging out of their mouths, and their bounding, though powerful, was no longer so elastic as usual. The deer, having discovered in the distance a large black bear, playing with her cubs, stopped a moment to sniff the air; then coming nearer, he made a bound, with his head extended, to ascertain if bruin kept his position. As the panther was closing with him, the deer wheeled sharp around, and turning back almost upon his own trail, passed within thirty yards of his pursuer, who, not being able at once to stop his career, gave an angry growl and followed the deer again, but at a distance of some hundred yards; hearing the growl, the bear drew her body half out of the bushes, remaining quietly on the lookout. Soon the deer again appeared, but his speed was much reduced—and as he approached towards the spot where the bear lay concealed, it was evident that the animal was calculating the distance with admirable precision.

The panther, now expecting easily to seize his prey, followed about thirty yards behind, his eyes so intently fixed on the deer that he did not see bruin at all. Not so the bear. She was aware of the close vicinity of her wicked enemy, and she cleared the briars and squared herself for action, when the deer with a beautiful and powerful spring, passed clean over the bear's head and disappeared. At the moment he took the leap the panther was close upon him, and was just balancing himself for a spring, when he perceived, to his astonishment, that now he was faced by a formidable adversary; not the least disposed to fly, he crouched, lashing his flanks with his long tail, while the bear, about five yards from him, remained like a statue, looking at the panther with her fierce glaring eyes.

For a minute they remained thus; the panther's sides heaving with exertion, agitated, and apparently undecided; the bear perfectly calm and motionless. Gradually the panther crowled backwards till at a right distance for a spring, when, throwing all his weight upon his hind parts, to increase his power, he darted upon the bear like lightning, and forced his claws into her back. The bear, with irresistible force, seized the panther with her two fore paws, pressing it with the weight of her body, and rolling over it. I heard a heavy grunt, a plaintive howl, a crashing of bones, and the panther was dead. The cub of the bear came to ascertain what was going on, and after a few minutes' examination of the victim, it strutted down the slope of the hill, followed by its mother, who was apparently unhurt. I did not attempt to prevent their retreat, for among real hunters in the wilds there is a feeling which restrains them from attacking an animal which has just undergone a deadly strife.

This is a very common practice of the deer, when chased by the panther—that of leading him to the haunt of a bear; I have often witnessed it, although I never knew the deer to return as in this instance. *Pitts. Nat. Reform.*

Encourage your own Mechanics.—Do not send abroad for help if you have work to do—when it can be done in your own neighborhood—perhaps at your next door. Encourage your own honest, industrious, faithful mechanics. They need all the work they can get. By such a course, you keep money at home—assist the worthy, and have just as good work performed. It is the only way to make a town prosperous—to support your schools and churches. Where there is a disposition to send a hundred miles for articles that, to say the least, could be manufactured as well at your own door, there will always be little or no business done in the place—the churches will be thinly attended and all kinds of labor extremely dull. Wherever mechanics are the best employed, prosperity is seen—the social virtues predominate, travelling mountebanks and peddlars retire in disgust, and a kindly, brotherly feeling is experienced, which is the source of unspeakable happiness.

Whatever you have to be done, look around and see if your neighbor cannot do it. If you have a house to build or a shoe to tap, a harness to be made or a pump to be bored, a pack of cards to be printed or a well to be dug, just look among your neighbors, before you undertake to send abroad, and if you have none around you capable of the task, it will be time enough to look elsewhere. It is a wrong idea, to suppose nothing is serviceable that is made at home. We know of many an instance where men have refused to purchase work made by their neighbors, and sent to a distant city for the articles they needed; and paid a third more for them, when, behold, they had been manufactured and sent away to sell by the very neighbors of whom they refused to purchase.

Let it be the motto of all—I will encourage my own neighbors. 'In turn you will be encouraged also. A mutual feeling of good will and kindness will spring up in your midst, and prosperity will be observable in every street and in every dwelling.

Getting used to it.—Somewhere about here—writes a southern correspondent—lived a small farmer of such social habits that his coming home intoxicated was no unusual thing His wife urged him in vain to sign the pledge. "Why you see," he would say, "I'll sign it after a while, but I don't like to break right off at once; it aint wholesome. The best way always is to get used to a thing by degrees, you know." "Very well, old man," his helpmate would rejoin, "see now if you dont fall into a hole some of these days, when you can't take care of yourself, and no one near you to help you out.", Sure enough, as if to verify the propheecy, a couple of days after, he tumbled into the well. Here the old toper, after a deal of useless scrambling, shouted for "the light of his eyes" to come and help him out. "Didn't I tell you so?" said the good soul, showing her cap frill over the edge of the parapet; "you've got into a hole at last, and it's only lucky I'm in hearing, or you might have drowned, you old dog you!" "Well," she continued after a pause, letting down the bucket, "take hold." And up he came, higher at each turn of the windlass, until the old woman's grasp slipping from the handle, down he went to the bottom again!

This occurring more than once, made the temporary occupant of the well suspicious. "Look here," screamed he in a fury at the last splash, you're doing that on purpose — I know you are!" "Well, now, I am," respouded the "old 'oman" tranquilly, while winding him up once more. "Don't you remember telling me it's best to get used to a thing by degrees? I'm 'fraid if I was to bring you right up on a sudden, you wouldn't find it wholesome!" The old fellow could not help chuckling at the application of his principle, and he protested he would sign the pledge upon the instant, if she would fairly lift him out. This she did, and packed him off to "swear in," wet as he was. "For you see," she added very emphatically, "if you ever fall into the well again, I'll leave you there—I will!"

Distressing Death from Hydrophobia.—We learn from the Natchez Free Trader, that Miss Sarah Fulton, a lovely and interesting young lady of nineteen years, belonging to Franklin county, Miss., came to her death on Sunday, the 4th instant, from the bite of a mad dog about four weeks previous. The Free Trader says:—

"Miss Fulton, on Saturday morning, felt shooting pains from the place where she had been bitten in the arm, ascending towards her neck and throat, but was well enough to ride some distance to attend a temperance barbecue. The day being hot, much water was drunk, and while attempting to drink, the poor girl felt an unaccountable spasm, or chill, pervade her frame, which prevented her from drinking. As she rode home she grew worse, and told the gentleman who accompanied her that she would die of canine madness. The paroxysms soon became dreadful; her mouth constantly filling with saliva, and throwing out foam, which had to be wiped away constantly. Her distressed and hoarse breathing could be heard for many hundred yards. Nature sunk under the awful struggle in about twenty-four hours, and death came to her relief on Sunday evening, the day after she was taken ill. What is most awful, and fills the community far and near with a pervading gloom, is the fact, that Mrs. Fulton, a widow and the mother of Miss Sarah, was bitten much worse than her daughter, by the same dog; a negro, belonging to them, was also bitten, neither of whom, as yet, have felt the symptoms of the disease."

THE ATLANTIC GOLD REGION.

At late meeting in New Haven, of the American Association for the advancement of science, Prof. Robert R. Johnson, of Washington, submitted the following observations upon

The Gold Formation of North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland.

The belt or district of country in which occur the gold-bearing rocks of the Atlantic border of the United States appears to range longitudinally from North-East to South-West, in a general direction, not far from N. 32 degress E. This direction is the result of a grand number of observations, taken in all the three States, and at points where the formation appears to be the most regular and determinate. It also results from a general observation of the relative position of the extreme points at which the central axis of the Gold Districts has been noticed. Taking Brookville, in Maryland, and tracing by Rockville to the point of crossing of the Potomac, below the Great Falls—extending thence across the Rapahannock 10 miles above Fredericksburg; thence through Stafford, Fauquier, Culpepper, Spotsylvania, Orange, Louisa, Fluvanna, Buckingham, Campbell and Pittsylvania, in the State of Virginia; through Rockingham, Guilford, Davidson, Rowan, Cabarrus and Mecklenburg Counties, in North Carolina. By prolonging the same axis North-westerly, it passes through a part of York County, in Pennsylvina, in which Gold is said to have been detected; and several hundred miles further to the North-east it strikes the tour of Somerset in Vermont, in which, according to Prof. Hitchcock, Gold was discovered more than thirty years ago.

As the result of special observations on the strike of the slate beds in which the gold veins occurred injected between the plies of sedimentary rocks, the facts observed were found between Rockville and Brookville, in Maryland, where the bearing is N. 30 E.—on the borders of Spotsylvania and Orange counties in Virginia, N. 29 to 32 E. in Montgomery Co. North-Carolina, at the Russel Mine, N. 32 E.—and in Mecklenburg Co. at the Smart Mine, 20 miles South-eatward to Charlotte, the stroke of the beds being there N. 32 E. These are a few of the points noticed, and the results are obtained from numerous observations taken at each point.

The system of metaphoric rocks in which the gold-bearing veins occur, appears to have undergone different degrees of change in the different parts of the tract. While in some parts the original slaty structure is preserved, in others the lamination has been partly obliterated, and the texture changed by the evident effect of heat. In some points to which observation has extended, there is evidently an intermingling of rocks of the Gneissoid character with such as still retain the slaty structure. In certain parts of the North Carolina gold region, the granitic rocks prevail, and there the auriferous veins have various directions, apparently wholly irrespective of the general trend of the gold formation. Thus between the town of Charlotte and the Catawba River, and within a circuit about three or four miles in dameter, are found veins which have been more or less extensively worked, with directions running to the N. 64 E.; N. 47 E.; N. 8½ W.; N. 36½ E.; and N. 34 W.—so that if these directions were prolonged, they would in some cases be found intersecting each other at right angles. In regard to the materials or veinstone in which the auriferous particles are found, they differ very widely; in some cases the material is an argillature slate, of a silky luster, much interspersed with minute cubes of pyrites of iron or of copper, or of both, as at the Russel mine on the Newberry, in Montgomery Co. in North Carolina; in other cases it is partly in quartz and partly in the slaty walls of the veins; and in others still it is wholly in the quartz, being scarcely at all impregnated with the precious metal.

The materials which exist in the veins are either such as have been acted on by meteoric influences and partly decomposed, or lying beyond the reach of such influences have escaped decomposition, and may be regarded as the true exponents of the deeper veinstone. These latter are in general less rich in gold than in the former, chiefly on account of having lost a part of their solid material by decomposition. But the deep ores owe their inferior value in no small degree also to the difficulty of extracting the gold from its combination with the sulphurets, which near the surface have been reduced by the combined action of air, water, and other materials from the atmospere.