

## LONGER LIFE FOR WOOD.

### How to Increase the Durability of Farm Timber Used for Posts, Etc.

One of the more urgent needs of the grape or berry growers is to increase the life of posts, slats, trellises and other objects of wood that they are obliged to use in connection with their work. It will also be of very great advantage and economy to the farmer if he can increase the life of fence posts and rails, barn timbers, etc. The study of wood preservatives has passed beyond the experimental stage and their use is now known to be practical and profitable. The Forester of the Survey, W. W. Ashe, of Raleigh, has prepared the following paragraphs pertinent to the subject:

One means of lengthening the timber supply and at the same time saving labor and expense in repair and renewal of woodwork on the farm is to add to the durability of the timber used for posts, stakes and buildings. This is becoming more necessary as the supply of durable heartwood becomes scarcer and less durable kinds of wood and sap timber, especially the second growth and short-leaf pine must be substituted for them.

The Geological Survey office has recently received two inquiries which show the great interest the farmer and trucker has in prolonging the durability of timber. One inquiry was from the manager of a large vineyard which has to replace more than 1,000 scuppernon grapevine posts yearly. The other inquirer was interested in a more durable berry stake. Neither of these men could conveniently secure yellow or pitch pine and were using sap short-leaf pine wood.

The most durable woods to be found in the coast region of the Southern States for posts, stakes and like uses are the heartwood of yellow or pitch pine, black or red cypress, red sassafras, black walnut, juniper, red cedar and white oak. In many sections, however, users are becoming dependent upon sap pine, red oak or other less durable woods for practically all of their building, post and stake material. Under ordinary conditions the life of a sap pine post is not more than three years. By proper seasoning and treating it can be increased to 8 or 10 years, while similar treatment the life of more durable woods can be proportionately lengthened. In the first place, timber to be used near or in contact with the soil, as for sleepers and sills for barns, posts, etc., should preferably be cut in late autumn. At this season wood has less sap in it than during either the summer or early spring. It is the food material in the sap which accelerates decay by furnishing a large amount of soluble food for the fungi and more minute forms which live upon the woody tissue, and which by destroying these are responsible for the decay of the wood. If the timber is small and the wood is to be used round or split for posts or like uses, it should be peeled as soon as it is cut and, if possible, raked out of the weather until thoroughly dry and seasoned. If it is sawn timber, it should be well seasoned before it is used. Drying wood, even of kinds like sap pine, adds much to its durability. This is due to the hardening of the tissues which form the wood and probably is also due to a chemical change in the plant food which is stored in the sap in the cells, rendering it less soluble and consequently less available for nourishing wood-destroying fungi.

The durability of wood can be further increased by coating it, preferably with coal tar or creosote, which are excellent preservatives. These not only keep out moisture as oil paint does, and which must be present for decay to take place, but they also have antiseptic properties, which render the wood penetrated resistant to the fungi which cause decay. Creosote can be bought in Wilmington, Charleston or Savannah and elsewhere as well as at the pine wood distilleries. Coal tar can be secured from the gas works of any of the larger towns. The usual price of coal tar by the barrel is about 10 cents a gallon. To use these materials to the best advantage they should be applied very hot, as this makes them thinner and thus they can penetrate deeper into the wood. This cannot be done, however, if the

## TIME TO MAKE PAYMENTS.

### Did You Ever Look at It This Way? Pay Your Bills So Others Can Pay Theirs.

The following was published in the Baltimore Sun of recent date. It is good reading. Look it over and consider it. Possibly you have never had this view of the matter presented to you.

"It is the custom of most merchants to send out their bills at the beginning of each month. It is the habit of some persons to delay the payment of bills even when they have the money in hand with which to make payment. Today is the beginning of a new year as well as of a new month, and perhaps almost every man who owes an account at a store or elsewhere will receive a statement within the next few days. Nothing will promote more surely business activity in this city than the prompt payment of bills at the beginning of this year. In order to make trade active money must be put into circulation. The way to put money in circulation is to pay bills. The man who receives the money, perhaps, owes someone else and is thus enabled to pay his debts, and the man to whom he pays them pays his debts, and so on in an endless chain. More than this, the man who collects money due him at the beginning of the year, if he has no debts to pay, is perhaps waiting for the money due him to buy goods or to employ labor, and thus he puts money into circulation.

"The man who pays an account of \$100 at the beginning of this week may be the instrument for extinguishing five times that amount of indebtedness before the week's end. A man may owe a small debt, and, thinking the payment at the time is unimportant, delays its settlement. Perhaps this one debt is unimportant, but if all who owe money should delay for any considerable time to make payment, business stagnation would result. For these reasons every person who pays his bills promptly at the beginning of the year will be doing a public service and making a contribution to business activity and prosperity. Prompt payment is also a benefit to the man who makes it, because it strengthens his credit and increases the desire for his patronage. Pay your bill and keep things moving."

wood is wet, as the water fills its cells retarding and preventing absorption of the coating material; and, therefore, the wood should be thoroughly dry if the best results are to be secured. Heat the tar or creosote in a deep kettle or can. Dip the lower end of the stake or post in the hot liquid and coat enough of the wood so that six inches or more of the painted surface will extend above the ground. A coarse fibre or wire brush or broom can be used for coating sills and large timbers which cannot be immersed in hot liquid. The durability of sap pine shingle can also be much lengthened by dipping their butts to the extent of two laps into hot coal tar or creosote. When a large amount of material is to be heated, a dripping shelf can be built to collect and save the surplus liquid which runs off. Much of such work can be done in the winter months when other farm work is not so pressing; but dry weather is preferable since the wood is then dryer and the hot liquid will penetrate deeper. The painting of the tops of posts will retard decay at that end. It is scarcely necessary to say that the painting of all outside woodwork about buildings with a lead and oil paint adds not only to their appearance, but to their durability as well.

Further information and advice will be gladly furnished the reader if he will write the Geological Survey Office.

The tender leaves of a harmless lung-healing mountainous shrub, give to Dr. Shoop's Cough Remedy its marvelous curative properties. Tight, tickling, or distressing coughs, quickly yield to the healing, soothing action of this splendid prescription—Dr. Shoop's Cough Remedy. And is so safe and good for children, as well. Containing no opium, chloroform, or other harmful drugs, mothers should in safety always demand Dr. Shoop's. If other remedies are offered, tell them No! Be your own judge! Sold by Cornelson & Cook.

## RESCUE WORK IN MESSINA.

### Soldiers Working Day and Night—Very Few Taken From Ruins Are Alive.

Catania, Jan. 8.—The system of rescue work in Messina has been greatly augmented by the arrival of troops, who are to be seen all over the ruined city in squads of twenty and thirty, patrolling day and night. Bodies of them are working in the ruins by day and until well into the night.

The movement of refugees from the villages is daily increasing in volume. Of the victims buried under the ruins few have been rescued alive.

It is now clear that that enormous number of casualties in Messina was due to the suddenness with which the first shock came, giving but little time to the people to escape from their homes. The tidal wave was not so high as was first reported, and would have done little damage had it not been preceded by the earthquake. The damage done by fire was comparatively insignificant.

The first earth shock last Monday morning literally threw down the city and almost every street was completely buried under the walls that had fallen, furniture and other debris, practically cutting off every avenue of escape.

Then came the tidal wave to inundate the city and the living and dying were caught like rats and drowned or had their brains dashed out by being thrown by the rushing waters against piles of masonry and rubbish.

Far greater havoc was wrought in Messina than was believed when the Associated Press correspondent first passed around outskirts with Frank Perret, of Brooklyn, N. Y., assistant director of the observatory on Mount Vesuvius. During this tour a most critical examination was made of the American consulate. It is a complete ruin—nothing but a heap of crumbling and crushed stones, without semblance of its original shape. It is most doubtful if the rescuers will be able to recover the bodies buried beneath the debris for a few days, but effort to do so will be made. The French and Turkish consulates also were razed completely, and it seems almost impossible that any of their inmates could have escaped.

Officials in Messina say that the original estimate of the fatalities in the city probably was not exaggerated. The lower part of the city is practically totally destroyed.

## The Negro Loses Case.

The Supreme Court to day dismissed the case of Oscar Reid, one of the negro soldiers summarily discharged by the President on account of the Brownsville riot, holding that the amount involved was not sufficient to justify the bringing of the case to the Supreme Court.

The decision leaves in effect the decision of the District Court for the southern district of New York, which was against Reid. He sought to compel the payment of his salary since his discharge.

Commenting upon the court's decision, Senator Foraker tonight stated that it was rendered merely upon a question of jurisdiction. "The decision makes even more manifest the necessity for legislation," said the Senator, adding by way of explaining his attitude in the matter, that he had nothing to do with the litigation.—Washington dispatch.

## \$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

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## A CRISIS IMMINENT.

### Recent Action of China Cause Much Speculation Among Diplomats.

An edict just issued dismisses from office Yuan Shi Kai, grand counselor and commander-in-chief of the forces. The reason given for this action is that he has rheumatism of the leg. The edict orders Yuan Shi Kai to vacate all his offices and to return to his home, adding: "Thus our clemency towards him is manifested."

A second edict appoints Na Tung, comptroller of customs and ex-governor of Pekin, grand counselor, presumably in Yuan Shi Kai's place.

The members of the diplomatic corps at Pekin are well nigh thunderstruck at the sudden dismissal of Yuan Shi Kai. The step is believed to be the outcome of a Manchurian plot and there are indications that the Japanese representatives alone had any inkling of what was on foot. Two hours after the ministers became cognizant of the dismissal, the American, German, and British ministers met in conference at the British legation. The home governments will act only after an exchange of dispatches, but there is reason to believe that Prince Chin, president of the board of foreign affairs, will be awaited upon by a strong diplomatic combination such as the British, German and American representatives here.

There is nothing to indicate that the dismissal of Yuan Shi Kai means danger to foreigners, but the good fame of China's management of the crisis following the demise of the emperor and the dowager empress and the appointment of a successor has been swept away by this vindictive act, which will astonish and arouse the outside world, cripple China's credit and postpone the withdrawal of foreign troops probably for five years.—Penkin dispatch.

## Had to Return the License.

The marriage of Miss Irene Hendley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Hendley, of this city, to Dr. A. E. Cline, did not take place this afternoon as announced. Dr. Cline applied to Register of Deeds Thomas for a license this morning, and the license was issued. Cline arranged for the services of an officiating minister and told some of his friends of the approaching event. During the day telegraphic inquiries revealed the fact that Cline has a living wife near Statesboro, Ga., and the register of deeds immediately demanded the return of the license. Cline at first refused, but upon being shown the message from Statesboro he agreed to surrender the document. Pending investigation Register Thomas notified all the ministers in town that the license should not be honored.—Wadesboro, N. C., special to Charlotte Observer.

## GO TO THE RESCUE.

### Don't Wait Till It's Too Late—Follow the Example of a Salisbury Citizen.

Rescue the aching back. If it keeps aching, trouble comes. Backache is kidney ache. If you neglect the kidneys' warning, look out for urinary troubles—diabetes.

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