

STOP-THIEF

By G. A. Cardwell, Agricultural and Industrial Agent A. C. L. R. R. Co.

If we had advance notice to the effect that thief was working our neighborhood what would we do about it? Would we disregard the notice or would we take precautions to look after the security of our premises, and in addition thereto, take out burglar insurance and ask for police protection?

I am sure that we would take some action; possibly oil up our gun, put the dog out of doors, and prepare to give the unwelcome visitor a noisy and warm reception.

If one thief could cause so much excitement, what would happen if we heard that a gang was at work?

Did you know that this really is the case that Ali Baba's Forty thieves will soon be abroad in the land, and that many good citizens who do not prepare to protect their belongings will suffer heavy losses?

Cotton Thieves

There are several cotton thieves, but I will only mention two of the worst, Anthracnose or boll rot, and the boll weevil. Protection can be had against Anthracnose in the use of disease free seed, and by avoiding soil disease fields (see U. S. department of agriculture farmers' bulletin 1187, "cotton diseases and their control.") Strong arm measures, all along the line, must be taken to insure protection, and then only partial protection, against the Mexican cotton boll weevil.

This the chieftain of all the crop thieves has caused "King Cotton" and his domain such heavy losses in past attacks, millions upon millions of dollars annually, that many farmers, formerly the strongest supporters of the cotton king have become disheartened. All of these should take heart and get ready to put up a good fight this year. Nothing but courage, good judgment and effort will win against this menace.

Boll Weevil Prospects for 1924.

No one can indicate just what damage to be expected from the boll weevil this year; this will depend very largely upon summer weather conditions. It is interesting to note that Mr. B. R. Coad, in charge of the government laboratory, Tallulah, La., which specializes in boll weevil work, has recently issued a statement which, judged by past experience, gives a fair index to the spring emergence of weevils to be expected. From the examination of 4000 pounds of Spanish moss, which was collected from 15 selected points in northern Louisiana, the number of

live boll weevils found per ton of moss was negligible as compared with the emergence during previous years. However, Prof. Coad specifically states no one should relax in the weevil fight on the basis of prospects of light weevil infestation because sufficient weevils will still emerge to do serious damage with a normal or unfavorable summer. Furthermore, he states, it should be remembered that the emergence record taken in northern Louisiana will not necessarily apply to the entire cotton belt, as winter conditions may have been different and the type of shelter available for weevils in the northern portion of the cotton belt somewhat different and possibly better shelter than Spanish moss.

A program for boll weevil control has been adopted; definite information thereto can be had from your county agricultural agent, state college, or from the writer.

Diseases and Insects of Garden Vegetables

From the time the seeds of garden crops are put into the ground until the crops are gathered, diseases and insects may appear that must be fought. Vegetable troubles are due to numerous causes, including unfavorable soil conditions, too wet or too dry, too rich or too poor, lack of humus or of lime, weather unsuited to some crops, careless use of fertilizers, or attacks of fungi or other parasites. The adoption of the best horticultural practice-crop rotation, the careful application for fertilizers suited to each crop, adequate cultivation, the planting of all crops in their proper season—is important for the successful growing of garden crops. The control of diseases due to fungi, bacteria, and other enemies requires special additional treatment, as does the damage caused by insects.

The use of disease-free seed and plants is fundamental to all insects and disease control. Many diseases and insects live over winter in the soil and will appear on the plants again next season if they are in the same soil. Furthermore, since many of the pests of closely related crops are the same, such vegetables should not be planted in succession. Vine crops should not follow vine crops, nor should crucifers follow each other.

Numerous important diseases are carried in or on the seed and can not be controlled by seed treatment, such as bean anthracnose, pea pod-spot, and potato leaf-rot and mosaic. It is therefore essential to secure the most disease-free seed obtainable.

Some of the worst garden troubles, such as root-knot and club-root, are brought in on the roots of plants and not only damage the present crop but remain in the soil to attack future crops. In buying plants one should be sure they are healthy and free from insects. The roots should be clean, hairy, and free from knots or swellings. "Prevention is better than cure," especially in the home garden, which usually must be planted on the same ground year after year.

Injurious insects may be divided into two classes. First, those which ordinarily attack only one crop or crops of one kind. The large tomato worm which confines its feeding to the plants of the tomato and potato family, is an example of this class. The second class eats nearly every kind of plant that grows in the garden. Cutworms, several other caterpillars, several kinds of leaf-beetles, flea-beetles, plant lice, thrips, and blister beetles are examples of this class.

In growing to maturity insects may pass through two different series of changes. Plant-lice, trips, grasshoppers, leafhoppers, and plant-bugs are hatched from the egg in a form which resembles that of the full-grown insect, usually, however, without wings, although the adult may be winged. On the other

hand, newly hatched beetles, and flies first appear in the forms variously known as grubs, caterpillars, and maggots. After passing a variable time in this stage they enter a inactive period, known as the pupa or chrysalis, and in due time cast off their protective covering to become full-grown beetles, moths and flies. The gardener should become familiar with the different stages of the destructive pests which taken together require almost daily repressive measures during the growing season.

Methods of Control

Insects and diseases are discussed in a most interesting and helpful manner in United States department of agriculture farmers' bulletin No 1371, under two headings, "treatment" and "prevention."

Under "treatment" are discussed the methods of control which may be applied after the diseases or insects have appeared in the garden, such as the use of poisoned bait for cutworms, the hand picking of insects burning diseased plants, or spraying with Bordeaux mixture and arsenicals for disease and insect control.

Under "prevention" are included all measures of control applied prior to disease or insect appearance which will tend to hinder or stop the development of diseases and insects or prevent their overwintering to attack the next season's crops, such as planting disease-resistant, disease-free seed, treatment of seed to kill insects and diseases, or the planting of crops on parts of the garden free from these pests.

A copy of the bulletin above referred to can be had upon application to the writer.

ORPHANT ANNIE IS DEAD

"Little Orphant Annie" is dead—the same little Annie who gathered the Riley children at eventide about the big fireplace told them tales of ghosts and witches and at the same time warned them: "An' the goblins will git you if you don't watch out!" It was the genius of James Withcomb Riley that endeared "Orphant Annie" to the heart of childhood and to the heart of the world in that poem which begins:

"Little Orphant Annie come to our house to stay, An' wash the cups and saucers up, an' brush the crumbs away, An' shoo the chickens off the porch, an' dust the hearth an' sweep, An' make the fires an' bake the bread, an' earn her board an' keep."

At the age of ten the little girl, whose name was Mary Alice Smith, came to the Riley home near Greenfield, Indiana, to live "an' earn her board an' keep." Mary Alice married a farmer by the name of Gray and Mrs. Mary Alice Gray, for some years a widow, died the other day at the age of 73 in the home of her only surviving daughter, Mrs. L. D. Marsh, in Indianapolis. Somehow, the new made grave of this aged woman takes us back across the years to the time when this tiny, selfish girl in the snare hours at the close of day sat by the dim light of the old fireplace and told stories to little Jim and the rest of the Riley children. Her stories doubtless kindled the slumbering fires of genius in the childish heart of the great "Hoosier" poet and the memories of her early years perchance increased his love for little children.—N. C. Christian Advocate.

LISTEN PARENTS

Rutherfordton Sun. Editor Page of the Kings Mountain Herald, tells the following story which we think is worth passing to our readers. He and a dentist were riding along a road in Duplin county when the following story was related:

"You see that old house over there in the field" asked the dentist, and I answered in the affirmative. "That has a tragedy connected with it" he continued. Then he went on to tell about it. Here is about the sum and substance of what the doctor said: "once that was a fairly happy home. The father and mother and little son tended the little farm and milked the cow an had a simple living. In winter the fond parents sent the little boy to school and were proud of him. One night the son returned from school all puffed up and with a sowl upon his face and proceeded to tell the parents that the teacher had treated him very wrongly and had whipped him. At this the kind father became enraged and told the boy that he would see that teacher and give him a whipping and that he would not go back to that school again.

"This suited the boy. Some years later the boy had grown to young manhood and was hanged over here at the county seat and inside of a year both father and mother were dead of a broken heart and here is what broke their hearts. As the son stood upon the gallows to have his last say before the treddle was sprung he pointed his finger directly at his father and told him that he was to blame. He reminded him of the whipping at school and how his father had taken sides with him against the teacher and stopped him from school. 'That's when you ruined me' charged the criminal who was to die for the killing of a fellow man. 'I thought that you would always take my part and I determined to do as I pleased after that. Then the young man told all present that they could not always do as they pleased when they pleased to do wrong. The criminal wound up by charging his father with his crime and dating it back to the school episode.' "And" the doctor continued, "in a year both parents had died of grief." Indeed the father was a party to the crime.

THE LESPEDEZA COUNTY

Monroe Enquirer.

County Agent Broom states there will be from 10,000 to 12,000 acres seeded to lespedeza in Union county this spring. These doubtless would be more could farmers readily secure seed. Mr. Broom also is having many calls for seed from farmers outside the county at 5 dollars and above per bushel. It is now the regret of many that they did not save their lespedeza seed last fall. Those who did go to the trouble realize from \$40 to \$75 per acre from that source and a number sold seed to the value of several hundred dollars each.

Nearly 1500 negroes attended five boll weevil meetings recently held in Rowan county by the local agent, J. D. Carlton.

COTTON AND COWS

E. A. Spencer of Anson county reported to the county agent that he averaged about \$90 per month from seven cows last year. He only bought one sack of cottonseed meal and two sacks of mill feed during the year. He grew his feed at home and exchanged cotton seed for the meal. He also made about 40 bales of cotton on 40 acres of land but will stick to his cows.

The Democratic convention for Pasquotank county will be held at the court house on Saturday, April 12 at noon or five days prior to the state convention to be held at Raleigh on Thursday, April 17.

Some of our divorce laws seem to be making two grass widows grow where one grew before.

CRITICISM OF NEWSPAPERS

Gastonia Gazette. Newspapers, as do every business in the world in which the human equations enter, make mistakes. There are many errors of judgment, many hasty and ill-formed conclusions, etc. For this reason, perhaps, newspapers are more subject to criticism than any other institution. Some people criticize for suppressing the news, some for not publishing all the news. Some people are mad because their names are printed, and others get mad because they are not printed. Some people forget that the freedom of the press is unlimited and have a tendency to criticize any and every thing that does not coincide with their own opinion. Again, there are others who do not know how to distinguish between a news story, which comes in the general run of the day, and an editorial, which is a statement of the paper's policy. A news story is news from anywhere, everywhere. An editorial is a statement of the newspaper.

But newspaper men have a tendency to carry. And being on the firing line all the time, they get hot and poured into them from all sides. It is a remarkable fact, though, that the most critics of the newspaper are those least qualified to criticize; many of the critics are lacking in grey matter, while many know really very little about newspaper work. And yet these critics know, or think they know, just what ought to go in a newspaper, just what is news and just what isn't, just how an article should be written, etc. But 'twas ever thus, and always will be thus.

And after all is said and done, the newspaper men feel that a great part of the criticism done is in a good spirit, and are satisfied to take it for just what it's worth.

Farmers of Union county have planted between ten and fifteen thousand acres to lespedeza this spring. More fertile soils will result.

STATEMENT

Table with financial data for INTERSTATE FIRE INSURANCE CO., DETROIT MICH. Condition December 31, 1923, As Shown By Statement Filed. Includes items like Amount of Capital paid up in cash, Amount of Ledger Assets, Income from Policyholders, Disbursements, Fire Risks, All Other Risks, ASSETS (Mortgage Loans, Cash in Office, Deposited in Trust Companies), LIABILITIES (Unearned premiums, Estimated amount payable for Federal, State, county and municipal taxes), and TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS and LIABILITIES.

BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1923

Table with financial data for BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1923. Includes items like Fire Risks written, All other Risks written, Losses incurred—Fire, Losses incurred—All other, President, C. A. PALMER, Secretary, W. A. ELDRIDGE, Treasurer, LEO K. HENNES, Home Office 408 Fort St. West, Detroit, Mich., Attorney for service: STACEY W. WADE, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C., STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, Raleigh, Feb. 16th, 1924, I, STACEY W. WADE, Insurance Commissioner, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the statement of the Interstate Fire Insurance Company, of Detroit, Mich., filed with this Department, showing the condition of said Company, on the 31st day of December, 1923.

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