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Diversification the Watch-word in 1915

To F. B. Newell, Demonstration Agent, Warrenton, N. C.

Southern farmers and business men are entering the most important period of the present year, namely, the planting season. For years the Federal Department of Agriculture, in common with others who know the weakness of Southern Agriculture, has urged a sufficient diversification to make the South self supporting. It has worked to influence the South to change from all cotton to "food for its people feed for its livestock and cotton."

In every cotton county in the South the farmers ought under this plan, to grow their own gardens and can the fruits and vegetables for home use, to grow their own beans, peas, potatoes, corns, oats, cane or sorghum for syrup, and their meat supply from poultry, hogs and cattle. The livestock is to consume the waste products of the farm and to bring profit out of its waste lands. Beyond the needs of every farm there are the home markets of the South that should be supplied from these farms. In almost every community there may be found farmers who are following this program and prospering as the result. Under this system cotton becomes the great cash crop, strengthened through a self-supporting system of agriculture.

The increased fall seeding of wheat and oats has been encouraging, but the critical season is here if we are to produce our own food and feed for the livestock. During the planting season the following items should be emphasized:

1. The home garden must be put in and kept going to produce fresh vegetables for the family use and some to can for the winter. Send for Farmers' Bulletin No. 647. Be sure to raise potatoes, either Irish or sweet, for home use.

2. Corn must be planted on larger acreage or the South will have to continue to import in large quantities. A conservative estimate shows that the South imports 105,649,000 bushels of corn annually. We need more of it to supply our farms and the town and city consumption.

3. Plant peas or beans in the row or separately. Harvest the peas for hay and gather the peas for beans for food. In some sections pumpkins or squash may be raised in the corn.

4. Do not fail to look after the farm poultry. Fifty hens to a family will not cost much to keep and will greatly assist in making the family self supporting. Good, fresh eggs are always in demand.

Prepare pastures for hogs where possible. If every family could raise the pigs from less than two sows, on the average, it would help to supply the South with meat.

The uncertainty of the market and the probability that a large amount of cotton will be carried over out of the year's crop should influence the uncertainty in cotton planting. With the uncertainty in the living is the important thing. The Department has for years advocated a adjustment of the cotton acreage per farm in order that a better system, founded on self-sup-

port, might be introduced in place of the present system. This means the reduction of the proportion of each farm devoted to cotton.

Not less than a twenty-five per cent reduction of the cotton acreage, on the average, per farm will leave room for the production of the gardens, oats, corn, hay, syrup and livestock necessary to make the South self-sustaining as to food for its people and feed for the livestock.

This program is not advocated for merely as a temporary makeshift, nor merely for the purpose of cutting down the cotton acreage, but as a permanent and lasting system which ought to be adopted in order to avoid financial and agricultural uncertainty in the South.

County agents are urged to call these matters to the attention of farmers and business men during the planting season. You will remember that bulletins touching on each of the matters suggested above may be obtained on application to the Department or to your agricultural college.—Bradford Knapp, Special Agent in Charge.

THE AMERICAN LEGION.

The American Legion is an organization trying to get into communication with enlist the help of and secure the co-operation of those men scattered throughout the country who would come to the defense of their country in case of war. It is a movement which deserves the success with which it has met, because, in case of war, it could be of the greatest assistance. Men who have had training in the regular army in the states' militia or in civil life, and who would volunteer in case of war, should be located, registered and kept in communication with each other. The American Legion is simply an organization that will assist the government in case of need. It asks neither state nor national aid, financial or otherwise.

A FEW DON'T'S TO PRACTICE.

Don't put ashes in wooden boxes or barrels. Use metal cans.

Don't throw ashes against fences or buildings.

Don't fail to burn all rubbish. Watch it, and be sure that the fire is out before you leave it.

Don't burn rubbish near fences or buildings.

Don't permit rubbish, paper, or greasy rags to accumulate.

Don't use coal oil to start a slow fire.

Don't try to start any fire with coal oil, it is dangerous.

Don't polish a stove while it is hot.

Don't fill an oil or gasoline stove after dark. If you must fill them, never do so while lighted, as the flame might set fire to the vapor in the air and ignite the oil, causing an explosion.

Don't forget that in case of a fire four or five pounds of common table salt will extinguish the fire immediately.

Mme. Curie, the famous woman scientist, has installed at her own expense a radiographic apparatus for the wounded at the Pantin Hospital near Paris. By means of this apparatus bullets and shell splinters and fractures can instantly be located, a powerful aid to the saving of life.

Sharpe-Thornton.

Burlington Man Wins a Bride in Warren County.

A marriage of unusual interest was solemnized in the Methodist Episcopal Church South, at Macon, Warren county, on April 7th, when Miss Selma McCorry Thornton, of Macon, became the bride of Charles V. Sharpe, of Burlington, N. C.

The historic little church in its decorations of white and green with a splash of bright color furnished by masses of yellow jonquils, and under the mellow light of numerous candles, never made a more beautiful picture than on this occasion.

Promptly at twelve o'clock noon, Mrs. John Monroe Coleman took her place at the organ, and as the strains of the "Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin pealed forth, the officiating minister, Rev. R. H. Broom, of Warrenton, the bride's pastor, advanced to his position within the altar. Immediately the bridal party entered. First came the ushers, Messrs. Walter Douglas Egerton, of Macon, and John Wright Smith of Bracey, Va., and Cecil Percy Thornton and John Skinner Nowell, of Macon.

Following the ushers, came the dame of honor, Mrs. Daniel Charles Lawrence, of Sanford, the bride's sister, who wore blue crepe de chine with large black hat. Next entered the maid of honor, Miss Emma L. Taylor, of Jackson, N. C., handsomely gowned in rose-colored chiffon over crepe with hat to match and carrying an armful of pink Killarney roses.

The bride followed on the arm of her brother, Nathaniel Macon Thornton, and was met at the altar by the groom with his brother, Mr. Walter E. Sharpe, of Burlington, who served as best man. While the solemn and impressive words of the beautiful ring ceremony were being spoken, the organist softly played "Schubert's Serenade." Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was used as the recessional.

The bride wore a handsome putty colored going away suit with hat and gloves to match and carried bride's roses with shower bouquet of lilies-of-the-valley. Her only ornament was a necklace with diamond and pearl pendant, the gift of the groom.

Immediately following the ceremony, the happy couple left by automobile for Norlina, where they took the S. A. L. train for Washington, D. C. After a few days' sojourn in the Capital, they go to New York City. Returning from their tour they will be at home in Burlington, N. C.

The bride is the youngest daughter of the late Robert Boyd and Rebecca Egerton Thornton. She is a graduate of Littleton College, studying later in the Conservatory of Music, Peace Institute, Raleigh. The groom is a popular and progressive young business man of Burlington. The esteem in which this fine couple is held is attested by the splendid display of gifts of silver, cut glass, china, hand paintings, linen, etc. Noticeable among these is a chest of silver from the bride's brothers and sisters.

Among the out of town guests were: Mr. W. E. Sharpe, of Burlington, Miss Emma Taylor, of Jackson, Mrs. D. C. Lawrence and children, Rebecca and Daniel, of Sanford; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thornton and little son, Nat

Macon, Jr., of Littleton; Mrs. N. W. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. John Wright Smith and daughter, Mary V., of Bracey, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Rhodes, of Esterville, Iowa; Mrs. J. J. Nowell, of Augusta, Ga.; Mrs. J. M. Rhodes, of Littleton College; Mrs. Willis Blacknall, of Henderson, Mrs. Marvin Drake, of Weldon, Miss Florence Perry, of the East Carolina Teachers Training School, Misses Sue Broom and Elizabeth Hunter, of Warrenton, and Miss Minnie Daniel, of Littleton.

USE FERTILIZER TO REDUCE THE COST OF PRODUCTION.

Many of our readers still seem to misunderstand our position regarding the use of commercial fertilizer in 1915. Our position this year is no different from what it has been every year. Fertilizers should not be used unless the increase in the crop will pay a profit, with a good safe margin, above the cost of the fertilizers. On the other hand, on soils and with crops that have in our past experience paid a profit on the use of fertilizers they should be used this year, and the necessity for the largest yields per acre consistent with the most economical production is as urgent and more so this year than in recent years.

We are dealing with the same soils and largely with the same crops, requiring the same treatment, and no false idea of economy should lead us to restrict the use of fertilizers when this will lessen our profits. The idea of reducing the fertilizers when this will lessen our profits. The idea of reducing the fertilizers in order to reduce the total crop of cotton, so it will bring a better price, would be too ridiculous to even mention were it not tragic in its possible effects in lessening the earnings of each individual by lessening the yield per acre and increasing the cost of producing a pound of cotton.

By all means reduce the cotton crop, but do so by reducing the acreage instead of reducing the yield per acre, which is now so small as to make the production of cotton unprofitable at any price which has been obtained in the last quarter century.

Of course, when cotton is selling at eight cents a pound there must be a larger increase in the yield from the use of the fertilizer to pay the same profit on a given cost for fertilizers. Or to reverse this matter, less fertilizers can be paid for with a given amount of cotton; for the price of cotton has decreased while the price of fertilizers probably has not decreased so much.

But the problem is the same principle that it has always been. If \$5 worth of fertilizers will produce \$7 to \$8 worth of increase in crop the investment should be made. The only question is as to the kind and amount to use to obtain the best profits and this is largely an individual problem for each farmer to solve; but this is no different than it has always been.—The Progressive Farmer.

GET HIM INSURED FIRST.

Cheer up girls! That's Leap Year' nearing 'Yes' off yonder By the clearing; Take a tip From this suggestion: Pick your man And pop the question. —Leopold Frée Press.

Health Warning.

PUBLIC HEALTH WARNING PASSED BY THE LAST LEGISLATURE.

Act For Prevention of Baby Blindness.

To prevent baby blindness a bill was passed making it unlawful for any physician to neglect or otherwise fail to instill immediately upon its birth in the eyes of the newborn babe a suitable amount of a one per cent solution of nitrate of silver. Any midwife or nurse discovering inflamed or reddened eyes must report the fact within two weeks or be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Thirty per cent of the blindness in the Maryland Blind Institutions is due to neglect of this simple procedure either by the attending physician or the midwife in charge.

Any physician will gladly give any nurse or midwife a prescription for this solution. All persons neglecting to use this remedy will be rigorously prosecuted by the County Sanitary Board.

PUGILISM ON THE DECLINE.

A new heavyweight champion has emerged from the ring. The fact that he is the White Man's Hope has awakened a certain amount of enthusiasm, but it is incomparably less than in the battles of the past, when the whole country waited feverishly for news of Sullivan, Corbett, Fitzsimmons and Sharkey. Pugilism is a dying institution, and, if any proof of the fact were needed, it can be furnished by the recent fight.

Prize fighting has certain clever and appealing advocates, among whom is Conan Doyle, the novelist. The apologists for the ring maintain that we are in danger of becoming too highly civilized, and that it is necessary to retain a little element of brutality in our life for the conservation of manhood. If all brutal practices are suppressed, they argue, we shall become a race of mollycoddles.

This plea has deceived a good many people; it should not any longer after the revelations of this year. Civilization has advanced by giant strides; brutality has been largely eliminated from the life of modern nations, but there is no visible diminution in the quality of the race. Never in all history have men shown such a disregard for death as have the troops of all the nations engaged in this war. Never before has there been such a machinery of destruction, never, even in the Napoleonic wars, such loss of life; time and again masses of soldiers have gone to their fate without flinching, as the Germans at Mons and Yser and the British at Neuve Chapelle. No deterioration in courage has been noted; rather an increase, since modern war is far grimmer and more appalling than that of the past.

Many savage practices have gone; manhood remains. When the Puritans put an end to that horrible pleasure of our ancestors known as bear-baiting, they lost no military virtues. Nor shall we lose anything when prize fighting has passed away. —The Times Dispatch.

Many people believe that there is some connection between barometric disturbances and explosions of gas in coal mines.

HOW TO MAKE BIG CORN CROPS THIS YEAR.

Let us urge the planting of a large part of our best lands to corn. That is, the lands best suited to corn, or those moist and the best supplied with humus. We need a large corn crop in 1915, because it will probably be high in price, and cotton, the only crop that will be generally grown and sold to get money with which to buy corn, is likely to be relatively low in price. But we do not need corn produced at the rate of 15 to 20 bushels per acre, for at that rate it costs too much. Land that will not grow more than 20 bushels of corn per acre with good preparation and cultivation should be planted in cowpeas, peanuts, soy beans, sorghum or sowed to lespedeza or other pasture plants and grazed.

But there is little cultivated land in the South that would not produce more than 20 bushels of corn per acre if well cultivated. It is now too late to prepare the land for large corn production. Only years of proper cropping, with the addition of legumes or stable manure plowed under in large quantities, will make a soil that will produce large corn yields. But thorough preparation, which means a soil broken to a good depth and finely pulverized—free from clods—and good cultivation might alone increase our corn yields five to ten bushels per acre, and it is probable that just the area now planted to corn would supply all needs, if each acre produced even 30 bushels per acre. This is not a high yield and could be made, the Southern average with little more than good seed, better preparation and suitable cultivation. Large yields, as already stated, can only come after years of good farming by which our soils are filled with decaying vegetable matter to supply nitrogen and hold the moisture needed in such large quantities by the corn crop.

In short, we must this year depend largely on better preparation and cultivation to fill our corn cribs. Commercial fertilizers are only profitable on corn when used in moderate quantities and with ore knowledge than the average farmer possesses. Nitrogen is the chief need of the corn crop, but on most soils phosphorus is needed and on some soils potash is also required.

We suggest that the best way left at this late date is to increase the corn crop are good breaking and thorough pulverization of the soil. Let us insist that no corn be planted this year until the ground in finely pulverized. Clods can be broken more easily, quickly and economically before the crop is planted, and a day or two spent in finishing the soil will not only make a better but it can also be more cheaply cultivated and will not be later than the crop planted on land left cloddy to save time and get it in early. After the crop is planted, on well prepared land, the smoothing or section harrow is the best and most economical implement for early cultivation of the crop. Labor-saving implements cannot be used in cultivating if the land has not been well prepared.—The Progressive Farmer.

China has only about one physician trained along modern lines for each 600,000 inhabitants.