

The Randolph Bulletin.

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

FARMING WITH FIRE.

[By Joseph Hyde Pratt]

During these spring months when the ground is getting dry enough to cultivate and the air begins to feel like planting time, the smoke from burning brush, grass, and leaves goes up from every farm in North Carolina. New ground are burned off, fence corners and brier patches cleaned out, rotting stumps and logs disposed of, and old fields and pastures prepared for the summer grazing.

All this burning means the liberation and consequent waste of the most valuable part of the food of our growing crops, from material much of which might be put into the soil. All vegetable matter contains the three elements of plant food which we purchase in our complete fertilizers. By burning, the nitrogen (the most expensive of these materials) is liberated in the air, and is absolutely lost to the soil. The other two ingredients, potash and phosphoric acid, are left on the ground in the ashes; but even this plant food does not all get back into the soil, for it is quite soluble, and being also very light, it is readily washed off into the streams by the rains. But this is not the only loss. The leaves or the grass, if plowed in, add to the soil not only these plant foods but also humus, the ingredient that nearly all soils need and one which it is impossible to get even in commercial fertilizers. It is the lack of humus in the soil that impoverishes so many of our farms, even though commercial fertilizers are used heavily, and that causes the abandonment of so much land in all parts of the State.

In clearing land the leaves and small twigs scattered over the ground should never be burned off, but should be plowed in and allowed to rot wherever possible. In order to accomplish this, only the coarsest brush should be piled, and this should be burned at a time when the leaves and other ground cover are wet and won't easily burn. In cleaning up fence corners and brier patches, fire can often be dispensed with altogether to great advantage. What material there is that is too coarse to plow under can be used profitably in stopping washes or filling gullies. Owners of land, in making contracts with their renters, should be careful to stipulate that no burning of grass or leaves should be done unless absolutely necessary.

But this is viewing the matter only on the side of the agriculturist. Every year nearly all of the most destructive forest fires are caused by the escape of fire from farmers burning brush or other material in the preparation of land for cultivation. In consequence of the dry weather which we so often have at this time of year, the grass and leaves become as dry as timber, and it needs but a spark blown over by the high winds to start a very destructive fire. At this season of the year, when the sap is rising and the trees are beginning to put out into leaf, a fire in the woods does irreparable injury. Not only is the reproduction and the young growth killed, but often practically all of the standing timber is killed as well. Forest fires in North Carolina the past year were estimated to have destroyed at least \$350,000 to \$400,000 worth of property, not counting the permanent injury to the forests themselves. Out of a large number of answers from correspondents who reported to

Sample of Longevity.

Four Grand Parents and Five Great-Grand-Parents Still Living

Granite Falls claims a young citizen with a somewhat remarkable family record. Marvin A. Mackle, Jr., born March 6, 1910, has the unique distinction of having four grand-parents and five great-grand-parents now living. On the mother's side are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Martin, of Granite falls, and grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. Martin, of Whitnell, in whose families there has never been a death. On the father's side are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Mackle, in whose family there has been one death; his mother's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Mull, and father's mother, Mrs. Hayes, all of Granite Falls. All five great-grand-parents are yet in good health and rather proud of the record the young man is able to claim. This speaks well for this healthy country.

CRUCIFY THE LAW!

"The hair of a dog may be a cure for its bite," but there is no power under the sun that can make us believe that we can cure an evil with an evil. Yet this is just what the "local optionists" who are beginning to agitate matters in the State are trying to do. They say, "Prohibition is a failure. Place the State under local option" (under the saloon is what they really mean). They know that if Prohibition is a failure—which we deny—the evil is not in the law, but in the men who are sworn to enforce the law. Instead of bending their thought and energies toward curing the spirit of anarchy which prevents the enforcement of law they begin to say, "Crucify the law!" They propose to double the evil by having anarchy and alcohol at the same time. Men, why do you not rise in your majesty and say, "We will have neither. We will see that the old commonwealth shall vindicate her right to a place among God fearing and law abiding States by enforcing to the letter her Prohibition laws and thus banishing forever that twin brood of perdition—anarchy and alcohol."—Raleigh Advocate.

Anent this same "disturbance" the Wilmington Star of a recent date rightly said that this local option agitation which was begun in Henderson would only tend to make matters worse and would have a bad effect politically. The Prohibition question was settled two years ago. Now let's talk politics and enforce the law a bit—Rockingham Post.

Public charity is not always kind, but the order recently issued by the Boston police commissioner indicates that he understands human nature. Hereafter the names of families found in destitution are to be kept from the public, and reported only to such authorities as have a right to know and a desire to give relief.

The State Geological and Economic Survey on the injury caused by forest fires in 1909, 13 per cent of all the accidental fires were attributed to the farmers burning brush. Such fires not only cause the loss of timber and other property, but they make the farmer lose a great deal of time just when he can least afford to do so.

If the North Carolina farmers realized the great losses and serious risks caused by thoughtless and careless burning of brush and grass in the spring, we should have much fewer forest fires and many more productive and paying farms.

Interest In Agriculture and Domestic Science.

Work of Young People's Clubs Well Organized. Over one Hundred Boys in Boys' Contest. Numbers of Girls Being Enrolled in Girls Home Culture Clubs. Valuable Prizes to be Given. Boys and Girls Under Twenty Years Old Allowed to Enter.

The boys and girls of Randolph County are becoming intensely interested in young people's club work as proposed by the State Department of Education and as being organized by the County Superintendent of Schools. Already 125 boys have joined the corn clubs and about 25 girls have entered the girls' clubs. Last week at Shiloh and Why Not fifteen girls joined the clubs. Randolph boys and girls are awake to the best things and in this instance their progressive spirit is being shown.

This contest is open to boys and girls under twenty years of age. It makes no difference where a boy or girl lives, just so the residence be in the country, he or she is eligible to enter the contest and compete for the prizes that have been offered. That the people are interested in the boys and girls is evidenced by the valuable gifts that have already been arranged. The merchants of Asheboro, and also those of Liberty, have been liberal and a fine array of prizes has been offered. In the meetings last week in Coleridge and Richland valuable township prizes were raised.

SOME OF THE PRIZES ALREADY ARRANGED.

The prizes for boys have already been published. It might be well to repeat that to the boy in the county under twenty years old who makes the highest yield of corn on an acre of land a prize of \$25.00 will be given. The second highest yield will warrant a prize of \$15.00; and the third highest a prize of \$10. A prize of \$25.00 will also be given to the boy in the county who makes the greatest profit on an acre of land in corn. This is done in order to encourage boys to grow corn at the lowest possible cost. Prizes have already been announced for boys living within ten miles of Liberty. In another column, under another head, will appear a statement of prizes offered to the boys of Coleridge and Richland townships.

THE GIRLS' HOME CULTURE CLUBS

This name has been given to the girls' clubs because it is sufficiently comprehensive to include all that is to be done by girls contests. The work is more varied than that of boys' clubs. Contests have been arranged in poultry, canning, sewing, and cooking. A running statement of each appears below.

Whenever a girl signifies her intention of entering the club, she may participate in any or all of these contests, and win prize in any or all. To illustrate: a girl may enter the club and compete for poultry prizes and also for canning and sewing and even cooking prizes; or she may not engage in any other contest than the one she prefers to work in.

POULTRY CLUBS.

Girls who enter the poultry clubs will be expected to take a setting of eggs (13) and with the one hen get the best results obtainable. She will be expected to begin the work not later than May 10th and the results will be recorded October 25th. The prizes will be awarded on the merits of the records kept,

the breed of fowl, the total weight of flock on October 25th and the condition of fowls on exhibit. The girl making the best showing in this contest will be awarded a prize of \$15.00; the second best will receive a prize of \$6.00; and the third best a prize of \$4.00. More complete details concerning poultry clubs will be furnished on application to the office of the county Superintendent.

CANNING CLUBS.

A prize of \$10.00 will be given for the best exhibit of canned goods. This exhibit will consist of every variety of canning products. A prize of \$5.00 will be given for second best exhibit. The prizes will be awarded on the basis of the largest exhibit of different canned products, the neatness of the work, and other points of excellence necessary to be considered in a case of this kind.

SEWING CLUBS.

A prize of \$3.00 will be awarded for the best collection of the following articles: (Best plain handkerchief, best laundry bag, best fancy apron, best gingham sofa pillow. For the second best exhibit of the same articles a prize of \$2.00 will be given.

Prizes of \$1.00 will be given for the best exhibit in each case of the following articles:

- (1) Best large table napkin.
- (2) Best pair pillow cases hemstitched.
- (3) Best large gingham sleeved apron.
- (4) Best pair hand hemmed linen towels.

Also a prize of 50 cents will be given for the second best exhibit in each case mentioned.

COOKING CLUBS.

A prize of \$3.00 will be given for the best loaf of bread baked by directions to be submitted later. A second prize of \$2.00 will be given for the second best exhibit of bread. More complete directions as to making bread will be issued later.

A prize of \$1.00 will be given in each case for the best half-dozen sugar cookies and also for the best molasses cookies. Prizes of 50 cents will be given in each case for the second best exhibit of cookies. In this case more complete directions will be issued later. Also some other contests may be arranged.

PLAN FOR COUNTY EXHIBIT IN FALL.

It is the generally accepted idea that in order to carry this work forward as a part of the work of the schools it is necessary to have an annual exhibit of the work that may be done. Therefore, arrangements are being made for a county exhibit of the articles prepared by the girls, of the poultry and canning, and also of specimens of the corn grown by the boys. This exhibit will be in Asheboro about the middle of November.

YOUNG PEOPLE URGED TO ENTER THE CONTEST.

It has been stated above that boys and girls under twenty years old will be allowed to enter these clubs. We have a good number now, but we want, and confidently expect twice as many in the county.

All boys and girls who enter will have an opportunity of winning prizes, but of far greater worth will be the actual experi-

ence in doing this kind of work. Parents are requested to arrange for their boys and girls to enter. Send the names and addresses to me and full particulars will be furnished. Just write me a card and state the name and address and also the club one desires to enter. This contest for boys will be closed May 10. The contest for girls may be open later. It is a good plan to send names early in order that directions may be furnished and also that the names may be put on the mailing list of the government bulletins and other publications which will be furnished absolutely without cost to all young people who enter the clubs.

THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL.

There are those who doubt the propriety of this work. Some have even ventured to suggest that this is no part of the work of a school man. The answer is to be found in the work being done in other places. Boys all over North Carolina are entering the corn contests, and in every case, they are being organized by the school men. So far as I know no other county has undertaken the work among the girls. But the school men of Middle West have these clubs for girls, and they are sure to come to the South. Why not Randolph lead the way? Why should we wait when we see a good thing? We are crying out for a more practical form of education, and this is the only form in which we are able to manage the system now. Let us begin the work, even on a small scale, and the time will soon come when we will have these things in our high schools first and then a little later the system will be worked out for the ordinary elementary rural schools. These things must come if the schools are to meet the needs and conditions of the people. Let us have another 100 boys and also another 100 girls to join the clubs. Send the names early.

E. J. COLTRANE,
County Supt. of Schools.

VALUE OF SNAKE SKINS

It is said to be a hard matter to skin a dead snake so that the skin will remain in good condition; consequently, in many regions of the world where snakes are caught for the purpose of supplying the market with skins for pocketbooks, belts, etc., the snake is skinned alive, an operation which inflicts upon this arch enemy of man the most intense pain. Some are skinned dead, but the difference in price of skins taken from the dead reptile and those from one alive does not make the more humane method popular. Dead snakes bring only from 2 to 5 cents, while live ones bring from 25 cents to \$1. Sumatra has a number of snake skin factories, as that tropical island abounds in the ophidian species. When a hunter brings in a live snake, one operator takes it by the neck and another by the tail, and the reptile is attached by the neck to a tree trunk. A sharp knife is used to cut the skin just below the head, and then, while the other holds the snake taut, the first operator peels the skin from the squirming body. The reptile, minus its skin, writhes in excruciating pain for an hour or so before it dies.

J. H. Johnson and little daughter, Elizabeth of Liberty are spending the week with Mr. Johnson parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Johnson.

A LAVENDER TOWN

Fragrance of Flower Wafted for Two Miles at Cutting Time

One of the minor harvests of England that promise well is that of the lavender fields. I have seen some flourishing crops in the Hitchin neighborhood.

Comparatively few knew of this quaint Hertfordshire town as an important lavender growing centre, yet it has grown the sweet herb (which the Romans called lavandula when they used it to scent their baths), has distilled the flowers and sent their extract into all parts of the world for more than a century.

The Hitchin district has less rain and more sunshine than the London area during the month which has just closed, and consequently the long, trim rows of lavender plants in their dusky green look strong and healthy. They are beginning to show their flower buds, and there is every likelihood of an abundant yield at cutting time, which will be from three to four weeks hence.

At cutting time people come in from miles around to inhale the sweetness of the fields, and when the distilling begins the fragrance of lavender is borne on the wind two miles or more from the town.

The flowers are put into the still with the fresh bloom of their maturity on them, and from six pounds of such flowers about half an ounce of oil is extracted.

THE PRIVATE CHARITIES OF NEW YORK

"During the past hundred years New York has accomplished more in the nature of private charity than any other city in the world," writes William B. Selden in Harper's Weekly. "The beginning of her vast system of relief occurred in the year 1806, when Isabella Graham collected together twelve little homeless children, running wild in what was then the village of Greenwich, installed them in a private house, and ministered to their wants with some semblance of human sympathy." In the city of Greater New York are now nearly one hundred and seventy-five private institutions, exclusive of the Department of Public Charities, says the author. They are partly maintained by appropriations from the city's purse, which for 1909 amounted to nearly five million dollars.

BAD LANGUAGE OVER TELEPHONES

The Iowa Court of appeals has decided a telephone company may not deprive a subscriber of his wire because he chooses to use bad language over it. The learned Judges remark it is the business of the company to supply phones and not to make rules limiting what may be shouted into the transmitter by heated subscribers. In connection with this decision one cannot help recalling that pitiful incident in Philadelphia where a girl operator killed herself after being grossly insulted over the wire.

Stubborn as Mules.

are liver and bowels sometimes; seem to balk without cause. Then there's trouble—Loss of Appetite—Indigestion—Nervousness, Despondency, Headache. But such troubles fly before Dr. King's New Life Pills, the worlds best Stomach and Liver remedy. So easy. 25c at J. T. Underwood's Next to Bank of Randolph.