

BLADEN BULLETIN.

A weekly journal devoted to the best interests of North Carolina, especially to the improvement of agricultural methods, is published every Thursday at Elizabethtown, North Carolina.

R. H. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.

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There is great excitement in Texas about the action of the Government in leasing large tracts of lands to parties, who have enclosed them with wire fences, and the newspapers and politicians are howling free grass and personal liberty.

President Cleveland is a warm supporter of the Civil Service Law. Cleveland is his own Boss and the thing is hurting. We greatly admire him because he realizes and appreciates the fact that he is President.

Suit has been commenced by the United States against the Bell Telephone Company to annul the patents under which the Co. does business. It is rumored that Mr. Atty. General Garland is interested largely in the Companies which instigated the attack on the Bell Co. Hey!

The Civil Service Law is causing some trouble and there is now considerable clamor for its repeal by parties who a short while ago, strongly advocated it. Let us stick close to the law. It means simply this; that a man's qualification determines his right to an office without reference to his politics.

M. Brisson, President of the French Chamber of Deputies, France is having the Brisson pedigree compiled. Great numbers of the descendants of old Brisson, the ancestor who married Miss Russ here and went to France, live in Bladen county.

Monsieur Brisson, the President of French Deputies, is unmarried and worth about three millions of dollars and in the event of his death, there are people living here who would be his heirs and inherit his property and now is the time for them to have the relationship established.

It has occurred to us that there may be persons living here other than the Brissons who are related to the President, the relatives of Miss Hildeth Russ, who married Capt. Brisson, undoubtedly would be so related. Come and see us and tell us all you know. It may be an advantage to you or your children.

We are surprised that our Congressmen, especially Col. Green, because they fail to provide the people of Cumberland, Bladen and Brunswick with proper mail facilities. The mail is carried on a steamer which runs between Fayetteville and Wilmington on Cape Fear River, and it is a well known fact that during the summer months the water in the River is so low that the steamers are unable to run, and therefore the people along the river are utterly deprived of any mail facilities whatever. West Brooks, Willis Creek, White Hall, Kelly's, Brink Land, and Dawson's Landing are all post offices on the Cape Fear River supplied by the Route on the River, and it is a fact that

there are eight months in the year when they can be reached in consequence of the low water, and then in the winter months the offices in the lower end of the river, where there are no bluffs, are submerged by the freshets in the River.

These are greivancies and they ought to be remedied the remedy is to run a daily mail from Rosindale to Bladen Springs and then a tri-weekly from Cronly to Elizabethtown and a weekly or biweekly mail from Point Caswell to Elizabethtown.

It may be, and it is charitable to suppose, that our Congressmen do not know about these things and for that reason have not remedied them. Now then let us all write to them and make a plain statement of the facts and point out the remedy and if they will not heed us, we can then in the future remind them of their dereliction of duty.

And let us get petitions which show the wrong and which point out what ought to be done and send these petitions to the Post Office Department.

When we exhaust our means and do all we can to call these matters to the attention of our Congressmen and the Post Office Department we can complain but not before.

THE PLEASURE OF CONVERSATION.

Sydney Smith has written many good things with reference to education, especially of young ladies, and his thoughts on conversation, and the real pleasure it affords are as applicable to the young people of to-day, as to those of his own time nearly a century ago. He writes:

One of the greatest pleasures of life is conversation; and the pleasures of conversation are of course enhanced by every increase of knowledge; not that we should meet together to talk of alkalis and angles, or to add to our stock of history and philology—though a little of these things is no bad ingredient in conversation; but let the subject be what it may, there is always a prodigious difference between the conversation of those who have been well-educated and of those who have not enjoyed this advantage. Education gives fecundity of thought, copiousness of illustration, quickness, vigor, fancy, words, images, and illustrations: it decorates every common thing and gives the power of trifling without being undignified and absurd.

The pursuit of knowledge is the most innocent and interesting occupation which can be given to the female sex; nor can there be a better method of checking a spirit of dissipation, than by diffusing a taste for literature. The true way to attack vice, is by setting up something else against it.

Give to women, in early youth, something to acquire, of sufficient interest and importance to command the application of their mature faculties, and to excite their perseverance in future life;—teach them, that happiness is to be derived from the acquisition of knowledge; as well as the gratification of vanity; and you will raise up a much more formidable barrier against dissipation, than an host of invectives and exhortations can supply. No human creature gives his admiration for nothing; either the eye must be charmed, or the understanding gratified. A woman must talk wisely or look well. Yet how often a woman hazards everything upon one cast of the die; and when youth is gone, all is gone.

The instruction of women improves the stock of national talents; the pleasures of society, by multiplying the topics upon which the two sexes take a common interest; and makes marriage an intercourse of understanding as well as of affection, by giving dignity and importance to the female character. The education of women favors public morals; it provides for every season of life; as well as for

the brightest and the best; and leaves a woman when she is stricken by the hand of time, not as she now is, destitute of everything and neglected by all; but with the full power and the splendid attractions of knowledge,—diffusing the elegant pleasures of polite literature, and receiving the just homage of learned and accomplished men.

TOBACCO AND ITS CULTURE.

Culture of Tobacco in the Heavy Shipping District—Preparation of the Soil.

The field is worked off one way either with a shovel-plow or a small turn-plow. Upon these rows two furrows may be thrown with a single plow, so as to make beds, and hills may be made on these beds by cutting off the crests and patting them down with the hoe, at whatever distance may be determined upon. If the check system is used, however, the field must be laid off in rows at right angles to the beds, which leaves the latter in broken sections. If the land is in good tilth nothing more is required than to cut off the tops of these sections and pat with a hoe. If, however, the land is still cloddy the hoes should be used in pulling up the dirt at two of the corners of the dissected ridge, pulverizing the same and making a hill at or near one of the sections of the ridge. The person making the hills should go in the same direction in which the land is bedded, drawing up the corners farthest from him, and when a row is finished he should walk back to the beginning, always going in the same direction while making the hills, otherwise the hills will not align across the beds.

Instead of bedding up the lands, probably a majority of the tobacco growers prefer to check the land off both ways and make a small hill at the point where the furrows cross each other. When the manure pile is small and the object is to make it go over as much land as possible, a small shovelful is placed at the intersection of the furrows and incorporated with a hoe into the soil of the hill. When commercial fertilizers are used this is the most economical method of applying them. Domestic manures that are worked up with the soil of the hill must be thoroughly decomposed and fine. The results are apt to follow the use, of course and badly rotted manure in the hill, especially if dry weather should supervene. Ashes applied to the hill, by reason of their fine mechanical condition, are an excellent fertilizer for tobacco. The presence of potash gives great vigor to the growing plant and makes a product of very high quality. All ashes, therefore, whether leached for the purpose of making soap or not, are carefully gathered by the expert tobacco grower and are as highly esteemed as the best rotted stable manure.

It is important that manure used in the hill should be buried deep enough so as not to be affected by an ordinary season or drought, lest the plant be too much stimulated at first and thereafter almost entirely deprived of nourishment. If thrown down in the check in a pile the roots of the plant gather about it in such masses as often to produce disease and even smother fire in very hot, dry weather.

It is becoming quite common to use commercial fertilizers, generally the superphosphate of lime, in connection with home-made manure. When this is done the latter is applied broadcast and the former put in the hill, varying in quantity from a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful. There is quite a diversity of opinion as to the value of the commercial fertilizers in the production of tobacco. In some instances greater weight and a better quality of product have been obtained by their use, but very often no apparent benefit has been derived other than giving the young plant a vigorous start. Doubtless the quantity used is often small, or it may be that the

deficiencies of plant food on soil are not met by the kinds of fertilizer employed, or the so-called fertilizer may be worthless. More recently many of these fertilizers have been prepared with special reference to the requirement of the tobacco plant and with a large percentage of potash; it is altogether probable that the yearly experiments of the planters may evolve some new facts which will aid the manufacturer of fertilizers to prepare a formula which will be more serviceable than any now employed.

No better fertilizer can be made for tobacco than a compost of leached ashes, one fourth and stable manure, three-fourths. To this, if the soil upon which the tobacco is to be grown is sandy or deficient in calcareous matter, lime, about one part in ten, should be applied. In this proportion the heap will soon decompose thoroughly, and will be in excellent condition to put in the hill or check. The stable manure, ashes, and lime may be conveniently mixed by hauling the manure out to the field just before laying it off in rows, and dropping it at convenient distances, say five bushels to every one hundred square feet, and then throwing the lime and ashes on these piles. After the land is checked, regulate the quantity to be put in the hill so that each one may have a portion, and mix the heaps thoroughly before using them.

Tobacco stalks scattered over the surface of the land is a most excellent fertilizer for tobacco. The rich, highly colored liquid which trickles from them after every dew and rain, supplies the very highest nourishment to the plant, and answers the further purpose of keeping in check many noxious insects.

This plan of applying manures is the one most frequently practiced in Kentucky and Tennessee. In Virginia a favorite method with good planters in Hanover, Spotsylvania, and adjoining counties, is to work off the land with a shovel plow, drill the fertilizer in the furrow, and make a bed over this with a turn-plow. The ridge is then rubbed down with a block or board, and is ready for planting. Hog-pen manure and the droppings from the hen-house are unsurpassed as tobacco fertilizers, but the quantity upon each farm is so small that they do not command the attention which they deserve. Lots upon which hogs have been fattened the preceding autumn, broken up before the strength of the manure has been dissipated, always make a rich quality of tobacco.

It would be almost impossible to use too much manure for the tobacco plant if properly incorporated with the soil. The more fertile the land, the larger and quicker will be the growth of the plant and the heavier the product. A small, poor, starveling plant will make a product destitute of almost every desirable quality, and will bring in the market a price frequently below the cost of production. A plant that has been nourished with an abundance of timely and proper food will be large and heavy, and will yield a product rich, elastic, and of good body, and will be in demand for every foreign market. There will be more competitors for such a product, and it will therefore bring a price proportionably higher. A small plant involves nearly as much expense to produce it as a large one. The cultivation is the same or probably greater, and while a large plant may be a little more troublesome to work and harvest, it is not so tedious to assort and strip. The large plant has everything to commend it; the small plant nothing. Properly fertilizing the soil, though troublesome and expensive, is hardly more so than not fertilizing, for upon this operation the whole profits of the crop are likely to turn.

Some beneficial results have been obtained by applying superphosphates of lime to the bag of the plant after it has been well established in the field. Plaster

of paris, applied in the same way, has a happy effect. Several applications may be made from time to time, until the plant is ready to top. It does not seem to have the effect of broadening the leaf, but rather thickens it, making a higher grade of product, and one more useful. To the eye, except in the change of color, the good effect of the application is not perceptible, but when the cured product is weighed, it will be found that there is a considerable difference in favor of the tobacco treated with plaster.

Very seldom is any manure applied to virgin soils. The usual practice in all the heavy tobacco districts of the country is to put the freshly cleared lands in tobacco two years in succession, after which it is seeded to wheat and clover.

The principal objects to be looked after in the preparation of land for tobacco is to have it well broken, well pulverized and well fertilized. With these three requisites tobacco will grow and make an excellent crop without hills. Many planters, in the press of getting out their crops, often set the plant on the side of the marking furrow, and no difference in the growth, maturity or quality of the product can be detected, provided the three principal requisites have been attended to. It may be laid down as a rule that the same preparation and cultivation that will make good cabbage will make good tobacco, though a good crop of tobacco may be grown upon soils that are unfitted to produce cabbage.

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Frank Thornton,

Oct 8 If Fayetteville, N. C.

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