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The Prize Nut-Cracker. (Wide World Magazine.)

Every one has heard of rocking stones—masses of rock so delicately poised as to move backward and forward upon the slightest impulse. There are many such stones scattered throughout the world, but the majority of them are mere marbles compared to the famous rocking stone of Tandil, in South America. This giant among rocking stones weighs no less than 700 tons, and is situated in a low range of hills 250 miles south of the city of Buenos Ayres. It is composed of granite, and contains 100 cubic feet. It is in the shape of a paraboloid, four meters high and five meters in diameter at the base. The stone rocks upon a knob of rock beneath, which lies closely into a socket-like hollow in the great boulder itself. The action of the elements through countless centuries has produced a wearing away the softer parts of the stone, leaving behind only the hard-gritted core. The stone is so delicately poised that it can be made to crack a walnut without crushing the kernel!

LONG STAPLE COTTON BECOMING POPULAR

Gaston County's Success Has Attracted Attention Of Farmers In Other Counties

All over the country the farmers are beginning to realize the importance and benefit to them of good farming—using up-to-date machinery and farming tools—but in nothing have they awakened as much as in the growing of long staple cotton.

By growing the long staple cotton a man can over double his income from the cotton crop. This can be readily seen by a look at the following figures:

On a 500-pound bale of long staple cotton at the present market value of 18 1-2 cents a farmer would realize \$92.50. Added to this amount for the seed—about 25 bushels—at the conservative price of \$1.50, while they often bring \$2 a bushel, would be \$37.50, making total for the bale and seed of \$130.

A 500-pound bale of short staple at the present market price of 10 1-2 cents, \$52.50 would be received, while the addition of the value of the seed—approximately 30 bushels of short staple—at the present market value of 27 cents, would be \$8.10, would make a sum total of \$60.60 received for one bale of short staple.

Thus the advantage of growing the long staple and gaining \$130 against \$60.60 for the same amount of short staple.

It takes only a little more time and possibly a trifle more care to make the long staple crop, as the life of the long staple variety is a little longer, and consequently has to be planted earlier in the spring in order to have time for it to mature before frost. The long staple must be picked before the bad weather strikes it if the best price is to be paid for it, but this is true with the short staple also.

From the present price of fertilizer and the cost of picking, it would seem that the farmer's salvation lies in planting the long staple.

Gaston County is the leader of the State in the growing of the long staple product. Practically every farmer in the county this year has a number of acres planted in the long staple, while there are many who cultivate nothing else. Among some of the growers are a portion of the colored population. Every year the number of farmers who are being converted into planting more of the long staple is increasing. It is a fair estimate among the farmers of Gaston County that 2,000 bales of long staple

"Sick headache" is caused by a disordered stomach. Take Chamberlain's Tablets and correct that and the headaches will disappear. For sale by all dealers.

ple will be raised in the county this year.

Gaston County was one of the first counties in the State to branch out into this industry. It may be the fact that there are so many mills in the county that they have made a demand for the better grades of cotton, and also the cotton men possibly have urged the farmers or made them realize the benefit of the long staple crop, but a good deal of the credit for the long staple spread among the farmers of Gaston County is due to Mr. E. P. Lewis, maybe more widely known as "Long Staple Lewis."

The Lewis Variety. Mr. Lewis is one of the prosperous farmers of the county and about seven years ago Congressman Webb sent a package of seed to him. He planted it to itself and during the year he detected a different stalk in the small patch. This he watched carefully and when it began to develop it still showed signs of belonging to a different class, and then he began to suspect it of being a rare variety. Not satisfied with enjoying his suspicion all by himself, he confided his supposed discovery to Mr. D. M. Jones, one of the cotton men of Gastonia. When the cotton had opened he picked out the seed with his fingers and carried a sample to Mr. Jones for his examination, and it was found to be a one and one-quarter inch staple.

Mr. Lewis planted the seed from this stalk the next year in his garden, getting only three rows. The next year he made a 550-pound bale of cotton, which was purchased by D. M. Jones & Company at the price of 14 cents a pound. The fourth year's growth of this variety found him at harvest time the owner and sole possessor of 11 bales of the long staple, which he sold to his same old friends, D. M. Jones Company, for 22 cents a pound. Mr. Lewis took a leap the fifth year to 22 bales, which he again sold to the same cotton buyers and was paid for it 24 1-2 and 25 cents a pound. Last year he made over a hundred bales, and this year he is expecting to bring in an enormous output of the Lewis variety to the Gastonia market, which is now bringing 18 1-2 cents.

The Lewis long staple has spread over the country and the farmers of the county, seeing the success he has made have started in pursuit of something better than the lower grades of cotton, for nearly all of them are planting the Lewis cotton.

Of what branch of the cotton family the "Lewis" staple belongs is not accurately known, for no one has been able to trace its ancestry, although it shows a kinship to the Sea Island cotton by the shape of the bolls and the shape of the stalks. It was a little orphan stalk reared among strangers that was discovered by Mr. Lewis and by him adopted into his own family.

Compared With Other Staples. The "Lewis" variety is what is considered a full one inch and a quarter cotton, although it sometimes reaches three-eighths, or swings below the standard to three-sixteenths. It is about on the equal of the Delta cotton except that it has a little more lint. This is said to be due to the manner in which it is ginned in this part of the country rather than to the quality of the cotton. It is a little above the Columbia cotton, as the price of the local market for Columbia is from 15 to 16 cents a pound, while the Lewis brings 18 1-2 cents.

The Weber Variety. When compared with the Weber cotton, which was originated by Mr. David Coker of Hartsville, S. C., and grown in that section, the Lewis falls a little short. People who have planted both grades of this cotton have found that the Weber gives possibly a little better grade of cotton, although the long staple cotton 100 pounds the staple is heavier, and will almost always yield more lint cotton from the seed than the Lewis. It takes from 1,600 to 1,650 pounds of seed cotton in the Lewis to make a 500-pound bale, while the Weber will third itself.

Long Staple Against Short. So far as the yield in seed cotton is concerned an acre of ground will produce almost as much long staple as short staple, but more lint cotton can be obtained from the short staple than from the same number of pounds on the seed of the long staple. In the long staple cotton 100 pounds in the seed will yield from 28 to 30 pounds of lint cotton, while 100 pounds of short staple in the seed will make from 34 to 40 pounds.

However, the difference in price of both seed and lint in the long staple will go far above the amount derived from the same number of pounds of cotton in the short staple. The 1 1-4 inch long staple cotton this year are bringing at present about 19 1-2 cents against 16 1-2 cents for the short staple cotton, and the 1 3-8 staple is bringing about 22 cents against 10 1-2 cents for the short.

Among some of the most prominent long staple cotton growers of Gaston County are: Craig & Wilson, Andrew Moore, H. M. Cleveland, L. L. Henderson, W. T. Rankin, Dr. J. M. Sloan, S. M. Morris, J. L. Riddle, C. C. Ferriss, John M. Robinson, R. B. Lineberger, Eli Lineberger, W. W. Glenn, S. S. Craig, S. N. Craig, Peter Craig, E. P. Lewis, R. C. Patrick and every farmer in the county is planting more or less of the long staple variety, but most of them, however, are planting the "Lewis."

A Leap-Year Modification. "So you wish to marry my son. You are undertaking a grave responsibility, young woman. Can you furnish him with the excellent home cooking to which he has been accustomed?"

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BRYAN'S SECOND WARNING

(Just an echo from Monday's Gatling Gun—the Red Cross Hospital Corps is hurrying to the field of "Simmons Run," with ample ambulance-facilities.)

"Senator Simmons asks the people of North Carolina for re-election. HE OUGHT TO BE DEFEATED. North Carolina is in reality a progressive State. It is entitled to representation in the United States Senate of a man whose heart is known to be in sympathy with the hearts of the people. Mr. Simmons is not such a man. He would do very well as a representative of the standpat Republican party. He will not do as a representative of the Democratic party if that party is to be true to its principles."—BRYAN'S COMMONER, OCTOBER 11TH, 1912.

Bryan is Chairman of Woodrow Wilson's Advisory Committee, and Woodrow Wilson said last week, in a speech at Lincoln, Neb.: "It was Mr. Bryan who set us free," and Mr. Bryan will also set us free in North Carolina.

Everybody knows Wilson and a Democratic House are certain of election, and that the REAL BATTLE is for the control of the Senate. The SPECIAL INTERESTS AND TRUSTS are making a desperate effort to mislead the people into electing standpat Republicans and Reactionary Democrats, and thus tie Wilson's hands and defeat progressive legislation. Wilson and Bryan both see this danger and are warning the Democrats against the election of near-Democrats and Reactionaries.

Hearken to Wilson and Bryan's warning and vote for a progressive Democrat—whom the Special Interests and Bosses are opposing—W. W. KITCHIN.

F. R. McNINCH,
Manager for W. W. Kitchin.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS. All persons indebted to the estate of E. J. Heath, deceased, or to E. J. Heath & Son, must settle by the 1st day of January, 1913. Absolutely no extension of time will be granted. The estate must be wound up.
MRS. ANNIE M. HEATH, Executrix.
Stewart & McRae, Attorneys.