

HELPS TO THE CORN AND COTTON PLANTERS BY THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, Farmers' Co-operative Cotton Demonstration Work.)

The past winter has been so wet that there has been less than usual opportunity to prepare the land for this year's crop. The rains have continued so late that many fields are still very wet. These conditions make it all the more necessary that the soil be well prepared before planting. In the impatience to commence planting the temptation to plow before the land is dry enough is very great.

Against this we issue a word of warning. There are few more injurious farm practices. Land plowed wet at this time is injured for the whole season. Such land is more than likely to be cloudy, and a clod in the field is of little use to plants. Cloudy land is hard to work and seldom gives a good stand. It furnishes a minimum of food to the plants and is exceedingly subject to drought.

While it is desirable, especially in the boll-weevil sections, to plant cotton as early as possible, yet there is nothing gained by placing the seed in the ground before the latter is warm enough to cause it to germinate and grow, or before the soil is thoroughly prepared. This was strongly illustrated last year in boll-weevil sections. Where the land was properly prepared before planting, even though this preparation caused a delay in putting the seed into the ground, the yield was much better than where attention was not given to this detail. A thorough preparation is more than half the cultivation. Do not plant either cotton or corn before the land is worked into a fine seed bed even if planting is a little late.

Last spring a great amount of trouble was experienced in securing stands, especially of cotton. This was primarily due to a late, wet spring; but there were other contributing factors, including poor preparation of land, improper depth of planting and poor seed. The farmers seem fairly well aroused to the importance of good seed. To be good the seed must not only be from a good variety but must have been carefully selected and so cared for that they have strong vitality. Be sure the seeds planted have not been damaged from any cause. Prepare the land thoroughly and sufficiently in advance of planting so that there is a firm seed bed. Then avoid one of the most common causes of loss of stand—that of planting too deep.

With well prepared land good cotton seed, if properly planted, will germinate even in a dry spring when covered to no greater depth than one-fourth inch. Many of the cotton planting machines on the market are faulty in that it is almost impossible to gauge the depth at which the seeds are placed in the ground. This defect is only increased if the seed bed is loose. Further, while the seed may not actually be covered to a great depth, many leave them in a trench with hills of loose dirt on each side. The first good rain washes this dirt into the trench and buries the seed too deep. This should be avoided. A light rick should always follow the planting so as to press the ground close to the seed.

It is best even where it is not necessary to plant upon beds, to place the seed upon a slight ridge, especially in planting early. This insures drainage and warmth and consequently a good stand. There are more stands lost in planting cotton by using too much than too little seed. When a bushel of seed is used it is very often a detriment, because the seeds are so close that when they germinate they lift the soil in the whole top of the row. If dry or a little cool weather follows the soil immediately around the young plant dries out or is chilled by the cool nights, and the plants die. If this does not occur the farmer is obliged to thin the cotton when very young, while the plants are delicate and are easily injured.

Perfect stands of cotton have been obtained with four pounds of seed and if the seed has been properly selected and preserved it should never require more than a peck per acre, provided the land is in good condition and the seed is properly planted. Prepare the land thoroughly before planting. Use selected seed of known parentage and good quality. Plant shallow—not over 1-2 inch in depth on a firm bed. Follow planting with a roller and use care that the seed drill is not in a trench. Be sure the seed bed is well drained.

With these precautions there should be no difficulty in assuring a stand of either cotton or corn this year. These directions are for normal conditions and are applicable with all ordinary seasons and soils.

Width of Rows and Distances of Plants in the Row.

Owing to the difference in soil fertility and varieties of cotton, it is impossible to give any general rule for distances between the rows and for spacing of the plants in the row. However, as some guide we give the following:

On good uplands ordinarily producing one-half to three-fourths of a bale of cotton per acre, plant in rows four feet apart and give not less than 16 inches space between plants in the row.

On rich bottom lands where excessive stalks are produced, plant in rows not less than five feet apart and give two feet space between plants in the row. Increase or decrease the distances (rows and spaces) according to the strength of the soil and the usual size of the cotton plants.

On post oak flats and alluvial lands

like the Mississippi bottoms, give full distance between the rows so as to make a broad ridge for the plants and provide for surface drainage.

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Assistant in Charge of Instructions,
Approved:
S. A. KNAPP,
In Charge.

"KEEP OFF THE STAGE!"

If any woman should know both the trials and rewards of stage life it is Clara Morris. Her opinion must have weight. Would I again adopt the stage? she asks in the Delineator for April. Never! Never in the world, if a comfortable and happy circumstances. It was the necessity of providing food and clothing for my mother and myself that drove me to the stage door, and it was the mercy of heaven that swung it open for me.

There is no disparagement of the stage intended. If I had a daughter I would prefer her not to be an actress. I should wish her an easier life, unless the fever of acting is in her very blood. Acting has nothing weird to offer in the line of danger. To be quite frank, all the possibilities of resisting or yielding to temptation lie with the girl herself. Every young woman who works for her living must eat with her bread the bitter salt of insult.

The stage has great rewards for the few—and great trials and tribulations for all; and as I have advised many times before, if there is one among my readers to whom the dim and dingy half-light of the theater is dearer than sunlight; if the burnt-out air with its indescribable odor is more welcome to your nostrils than could be the clover-scented breath of the greenest pasture; if that great black golf yawning beyond the extinguished footlights makes your heart leap at your throat; if without noting the quality or length of your part, just the plain, bald fact of "acting something" thrills you with nameless joy; if the rattle-bang of the ill-treated old overture dances through your blood and the rolling up of the curtain on the audience at night is to you the magic blossoming of a mighty flower—if these are the things you feel your fate is sealed. Nature is imperious, and foreshadows makes your heart cry to you: "Act!—act!—act!—otherwise keep off!"

But, oh, my dears! believe me, a loving mother's declaration, "I don't know what I should do without my daughter!" is sweeter and more precious to the memory than the careless applause of strangers!

Do Negroes Prefer Straight Hair.

In the April American Magazine Ray Stannard Baker writes most entertainingly of "The Tragedy of the Mulatto." Following is an extract:

"Even among those negroes who are most emphatic in defense of the race there is, deep down, the pathetic desire to be like the white man. It is not unreasonable, nor unnatural: for all outward opportunity of development lies open to the white man. To be colored is to be handicapped in the race for those things in life which men call desirable. I remember discussing the race question one evening with a group of intelligent colored men. They had made a strong case for the negro spirit, and the need of the race to stand for itself, but one of them said in a passing remark (what the investigator overhears is often of greater significance than what he hears) speaking of a mulatto friend of his:

"His hair is better than mine."

"He meant straighter, more like that of the white man."

"The same evening another negro, referring to a light-complexioned colored man, said:

"Thank God, he is passing now for white."

"A Philadelphia dark negro made this comment on one of the colored churches where mulattoes are in the ascendancy:

"You can't have a good time when you go there unless you have straight hair."

"This remark indicated not only the idea held by the speaker, but showed the line drawn by the light-colored man against his darker brother."

"In the same way it is almost a universal desire of negroes to 'marry whiter,' that is, a dark man will, if possible, marry a mulatto woman, the lighter, the better. The ideal is whiteness; for whiteness stands for opportunity, power, progress."

THE GYPSY.

By Helen Hay Whitney, in the April Metropolitan Magazine.

Oh, she was most precious, as the Wind's self was fair.
What did I give her when I had her on my knee?
Red kisses for her coral lips and a red comb for her hair.
She took my gifts, she took my heart, and fled away from me.
Oh, but she was fanciful. She found a savage mate;
He scorned her, he spurned her, he drove her from his door.
She cuddled in his ingle-nook and laughed at all his hate.
She took his curses, took his blows, and never left him more.

KEEPING OPEN HOUSE.

Everybody is welcome when we feel good; and we feel that way only when our digestive organs are working properly. Dr. King's New Life Pills regulate the action of stomach, liver and bowels so perfectly one can't help feeling good when he uses these pills. 25c at Woodall & Sheppard's drug store.

WHITE BOY TRIED FOR MURDER

Special to The News.
Raleigh, N. C., April 2.—Wake superior court is being taken up just now with the trial of Everett Spence, a young white farmer of the county, on the charge of killing Walter Chavis, colored, more than a year ago. Spence is sixteen years old. He was held in jail several months without bail, Justice Connor, of the supreme court, refusing a writ of habeas corpus at one time after reviewing the evidence. A few months ago, however, bail was allowed and now the trial is for manslaughter only. The young man and several older men were in a wagon driving out of town for home when they passed a negro church. They had been drinking heavily and became involved in a quarrel with the negroes about the church yard. The Chavis negro was shot, and died from the wounds. The boy, Spence is alleged to have fired the shot that hit the negro. The defense is that the negro was stooping to pick up a rock to throw at the men on the wagon.

Plans For Another "Corn Special"

Special to The News.
Raleigh, N. C., April 2.—Plans are already being formulated for another "corn special" train to be operated next season over the North Carolina divisions of the Norfolk & Southern Railway for the improvement of methods of farming and farm work. This is because of the great success that attended the "special" that is just in from a two weeks' trip. Next year there will be demonstrations in a number of features of farm work as well as the usual lectures and specimens of seeds, plants and plant diseases. The train was met this time at every point by large crowds and the interest was very great. The train was under the auspices of the A. & M. College, President Winston and several of the officials of the college experiment station taking part in the program.

WAS STRATEGIST

Namesake of Napoleon Tries to Destroy Prima Facie Evidence.

In the police court this morning Napoleon Davis, colored, was bound over to court on the charge of resisting an officer.

Napoleon, who is a great strategist, in keeping with his name, got mixed up with the law late yesterday afternoon, when he tried to destroy some prima facie evidence in the shape of a jug of whiskey.

Chief Christenbury and Patrolman Barghardt went out yesterday afternoon to arrest one Walter Hendricks, and found him in possession of two jugs of the liquid from Rowan, and placed him under arrest. Just about this time Napoleon decided to be shrewd, and without saying a word, broke one of the jugs. He was arrested and carried along with Hendricks, and on the way to the station, he tried to break the other jug, thinking that with the whiskey out of the way that there would be no evidence against the two.

Hendricks was also bound over under a \$100 bond for retelling.

BACHELOR GIRL CHAT.

(By Helen Rowland.)

Husbands are life the pictures in the anti-fate advertisements—so different before and after taking.

There are moments when the meanness of women may feel a sisterly sympathy for her husband's first wife.

When a lawyer is slow about getting a pretty woman her divorce it is because he wants a chance to make love to her before she is in a position to start a breach of promise suit.

It isn't what you can see through the holes in a peek-a-boo waist that makes the garment attractive, but what you just can't see.

A man who would turn up his nose at an overdone chop or an overdone biscuit will swallow the keenest relish.

Tobacco and love and olives are all acquired tastes; your first smoke makes you sick, your first olive tastes bitter, and your first love affair makes you unhappy.

Some men feel that the only thing they owe the woman who marries them is a grudge.

The supreme test of love is when a woman asks a man to let her take his new motor car out for a spin all by herself.

The Young Men's Christian Association has issued two booklets which are given at the port of departure to immigrants coming to the United States. One is "The Country to which You Go," a brief statement of the geography, history and government of the nation. The other is "How to Become a Citizen of the United States." Both give lists of Associations all over America to which the immigrant is invited.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher*

BEEF FAMINE IN SPARTANBURG

Special to The News.
Spartanburg, S. C., April 2.—Many of the butchers doing business in the suburban sections of this city, and around the cotton mills, are going out of business on account of the scarcity of beef cattle.

Never before in the history of the city has cattle been as scarce as at present.

A well known butcher said that everything pointed an increase in the price of fresh meat in the near future.

THIS AND THAT

Did you ever notice that the March winds always begin to blow after April 1st, while April showers come in May? Father Time, like the Southern Railroad, seems to be running behind the schedule.

They seem to have the police-baiting habit down in Fayetteville. We look in almost every day to see that some additional damage has been done to another Fayetteville policeman.

The Lilley boat-graft charges instead of belonging to the flower kingdom, as might be expected from the name, seem to belong to the tad pole family—big at the front end and gradually tapering off to nothing.

In Georgia, that most entertaining of states, Mr. Brown is trying to defeat Mr. Smith, for governor. We are hourly expecting to hear that Mr. Jones has entered the race and captured the prize. Certainly, no gentleman with a more aristocratic name than Jones could dare to ask the crackers for support, as against the two candidates already out.

NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITE.

Mrs. E. D. Charles, of Harbor, Maine, speaking of Electric Bitters, says: "It is a neighborhood favorite here with us." It deserves to be a favorite everywhere. It gives quick relief in dyspepsia, liver complaint, kidney derangement, malnutrition, nervousness, weakness and general debility. Its action on the blood, as a thorough purifier makes it especially useful as a spring medicine. This grand alterative tonic is sold under guarantee at Woodall & Sheppard's drug store, 50.

Reference.—Any Bank in Louisville Weekly Price List Issued—Write for it

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Matting Covered Box, 30 inches long, 15 inches deep.....	\$5.50
Matting Covered Box, 33 inches long, 17 inches deep.....	\$6.50
Matting Covered Box, 27 inches long, 9 inches deep.....	\$6.00
Matting Covered Box, 31 inches long, 11 inches deep.....	\$8.00
Matting Covered Box, 40 inches long, 11 inches deep.....	\$7.50
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