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FARMING IN THE SOUTH.

"Old Foggy" Has Some Up-to-Date Ideas on Farming and Pens Them Down—Things to Be Considered and Plans Suggested.

The general principles that underlie farming are the same the world over but the agriculture of each extended territory has its distinctive peculiarities impressed upon it by climate, soil or other local conditions. The agriculture of Europe is, in many respects, very different from that of the United States, and that of the Northern States is widely unlike that of our Southern States. Even in our Southern States there are local conditions which call for local practices. Thus clay soils require different treatment from those that are sandy; hilly lands from those that are level. Such differences may and often do exist on the same farm, and one of the most profitable things a farmer can do is to study carefully the peculiarities of every field on his place. In the first place every field should be measured so that its acreage may be known. This is important both in the pitching of the crops and in the distribution of manures.

Again, its soil should be studied in reference to its natural drainage, that is, the rapidity with which it dries off after rain and gets into condition to take the plow. Soils vary greatly in this respect, but such difference is often overlooked, and no allowance made in starting plows. No one thing, perhaps, is more injurious to clay soils than plowing them when too wet, and yet it is very frequently done. Sometimes when the soil is thin the upper part may be dry enough but the subsoil, which is reached by the plow, is still too wet.

The adoption of each field to particular crops is also worthy of special note. The same rotation may not suit equally well all the fields on a farm. This is obvious in case of wet or damp bottom lands, which will not admit of cotton or wheat in a rotation. It may not be so obvious in case of uplands, but careful observation will generally discover similar peculiarities and adaptations in these. A light thirsty soil may not bring a paying crop of corn, but may produce a remunerative crop of peas or of winter grain, as the latter does not suffer so much from drought. Certain soils will not make good cotton, but produces usually good crops of grain. Such peculiarities should be carefully studied and noted, and one's crops arranged accordingly. It is in these nicer adaptations that much of one's clear profit lies.

It is very important also to study each field with reference to its capacity to produce any crop that will yield a clear profit. We are satisfied that there are thousands of acres cultivated that do not pay the expense of cultivation. They might possibly pay something in small grain, where cultivation is reduced to a minimum, or in grass, where the cultivation is still less. English farmers who study

profit and loss much more carefully than most of our farmers do, have of late years changed much of their lands from grain to grass, finding the cultivation of grain unprofitable. And many of our farmers would do the same thing with their cotton fields if they were equally cognizant of the facts and equally wise to act upon them. But the misfortune is that so few of our farmers have that exact knowledge of their affairs which enables them to say positively that this pays and that does not. Too much of our farming, alas, is done in the dark.

Method and system not only lessens labor greatly but contribute largely to successful results in any pursuit. This is eminently true in farming. The first thing a farmer needs to know is, what are his assets, that is, his means and appliances for carrying on the work of the year. What efficient stock is on hand; what provisions to feed them, what cash to pay for labor, how much good land he has—land that will pay for cultivation, and lastly, though not in the nature of an asset, yet a factor that should not be overlooked, the supply and reliability of labor within his reach.

Perhaps the first item he should carefully consider is the amount of good land he has. In judging his land he should be a severe critic, not biased by partiality because it is his own. We are very prone to think more highly than we ought, not only of ourselves but of our possessions also. We flatter ourselves that such a field will make a good crop of corn or cotton this year, in the face of the fact that it has not done it in years past. We excuse and apologize for it by attributing failure not to the land itself but to season, or failure on our part to give one working it needed, or something else. The only safe rule is to judge it by the average crops it yielded during the last five years. Unless it has been heavily manured and judiciously cultivated it has grown poorer, and will produce less in the future than in the past. No proposition is simpler and plainer than: The richer the land the greater the net profit from money and labor expended on it. Profit decreases as poverty of land increases. At one point the value of crop produced and expense of cultivation are just equal. Beyond this point expense continues to exceed value of crop, and cultivation becomes a source of actual loss. Now on the same farm there may be fields rich enough to pay handsome profits—others too poor to pay any. If all are cultivated there may be a small average profit, but the profit would have been greater if the poor fields had not been cultivated, because the expense of cultivating them being saved might legitimately be passed to profit account. The case is analogous to that of a dairyman keeping a herd of cows, some fine milkers, some poor. The cost of food is the same for each. The profit in milk and butter comes mainly from the the good milkers.

(CONTINUED WEDNESDAY.)

MR. WYATT SEES HIS MISTAKE.

Did Not Beat His Mother-in-Law—Sorry He Married the Swiss Woman. Special to The Charlotte Observer.

I notice an article this morning in your paper which does me a great injustice, in which it is stated that I belabored my mother-in-law with a stick of fire wood. This is a false report. I have been very kind to her and when she was sick employed a nurse until she got well. I turned my home over to my wife and mother-in-law. I bought an outfit suitable for the occasion and sent Mrs. Wyatt to the Charleston Exposition as interpreter and to help me advertise my granite business. Then later on I sent her money to pay her board bill, which she took and come home with to get some more money and some more of my household goods and curiosities, and it was not until then that I found out I had made such a great mistake in getting married so hastily to the Swiss lady. They took full charge of my home and closed and locked the doors for two days and nights, and packed up all my nice window curtains, lambrequins and moved the piano and organ over in their bed room. All this while packing and preparing to leave to parts unknown, whenever I pay them a certain sum of money, which they are now trying to force me to pay them. It seems that it is only the money and property that they are after. I did not know that this was the way of these Switzerland people; or I never would have got caught in their trap. J. T. WYATT
Faith, N. C., Jan. 5.

Meeting the Ramseur Chapter.

The Dodson Ramseur Chapter of the U. D. C. will meet with Mrs. H M Barrow on Saturday, the 18th, to celebrate the birth days of Lee and Jackson. All the members of the Chapter are most cordially invited to be present. The following programme has been arranged for the occasion:

Piano Solo—Mrs. W R Harris.
Sketch of Lee and Jackson—Mrs. J P Allison.
Piano Solo—Mrs. R A Brower.
Song—Miss Rose Harris.
Reading, "The Sword of Lee"—Mrs. J M Odell.
Piano Solo—Miss Julia Barrow.

Mr. D A Caldwell is spending the day in Charlotte on business.

Mrs. L A Steifel and son, of Cannonville, left this morning for Pelzer, S. C., to live. Mr. Steifel left the first of the year.

Mrs. J M Furr, who has been visiting relatives in the city, left this morning for her home at Kings Mountain. Mrs. Mattie Furr accompanied her and will spend a few weeks with her.

EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS ALL OVER THIS STORE.

First, last and all the time this is the store of the people—the great masses whose patronage goes where the best values are to be had. The sole power to draw crowds here lies in the uniformly low prices that prevail for worthiest qualities. We seek constantly to widen our scope of business, to enlarge our facilities and broaden our service. On the first of each year an effort is made here to give our patrons better service and make changes that are beneficial to our customers and ourselves. Now comes a January Sale that all humanity is interested in. This is a sale of dependable goods at real bargain prices. The goods in our store look even better than they do on paper. During the holidays a great deal of goods were somewhat soiled and wrinkled in decorating. These goods go in this sale for less than cost and are as good as new.

We have just purchased SAMPLE GOODS in Men's Wear at greatly reduced prices:

Ten dozen Men's Wool Fleeced Shirts and Drawers, real value 1.00 per garment, our special price 62¢
Twenty dozen Knit Undershirts, big value, only 25¢.

Sample Sox

Twenty dozen Sample Sox, the very best and selected to sell from and they retail at 40 and 50 cts, in this sale your choice of the high grade sox at 25¢.

Ladies' Hosiery

Within a short time the sales in our Hosiery Department have increased wonderfully and we attribute the worthy quality to be the cause. We claim to sell the best 10, 15 and 25 cent hosiery to be had and a visit to this store will prove our talks. Special—60 dozen children's hose, extra heavy, at 10¢

One case of Misses double knee Hose, superior quality, at 12¢.

Fifteen dozen Ladies Sample Hose at 15, 25 and 35¢. that are worth double. The quantity is limited and will be picked over quickly.

H. L. Parks & Co. H. L. Parks & Co.
DEPARTMENT STORE DEPARTMENT STORE

Just Keep Coming!

And if moving time is delayed much longer we will not have such a job after all. For the next few days until, our new quarters are ready, we are going to make prices that will sell goods if

LOW PRICES WILL SELL THEM

Thanking you for past favor and asking you to pass over our mistakes when it's possible, we will try and do better in the future. Again thanking you and asking you to call and see us we are yours to try to please,

The Bell & Harris Fur. Co.

Good Job Work!

We substantiate this statement with the real stuff, and leave it to you to say whether our work is all right or not; and if it is not we guarantee to make it so. We are here to make a profit—a living—also to do justice to our customers.

The Standard Job Office.