

THE VIRGINIA HAY CROP.

So Long as Farmers Raise Hoed Crops Exclusively, Do Without Pastures and Buy Hay, They May Expect to Be Poor.

ALL GOOD GENERAL farmers, as a matter of course, recognize grass and hay in their crop rotations. However, such special crops as cotton, tobacco, peanuts, and truck are grown under very grinding and unfavorable conditions when hay and grass play no part in this class of farming. The writer had occasion sometime ago to visit one of our counties where cotton and peanuts were chiefly grown. The land was naturally good and lay well, but was reduced in fertility, which is always the case where these large special crops are grown and commercial fertilizer is relied upon to produce these crops. A short

time previous to my visit a farmer from the Valley of Virginia had purchased a large estate there. Every one was growing cotton and peanuts and buying hay from the West for his stock, and this man, seeing his opportunity and the demand for hay, did not wait till his seeded hay crops would grow, but mowed crabgrass and sold it to those one-ideaed farmers for \$10 per ton. At the time of my visit three mowers were running, over 200 acres were in grass, and many ricks dotted the field presenting a scene of prosperity and beauty. Whether we travel about the country with a slow-gaited team or look from the car windows of a fast-

flying express, the grass fields and hay stacks point out the prosperous farmers.

Grass Fields Essential to Good Farming.

Grass crops play such an important part in adding to and retaining fertility, that successful farming is impossible unless grass and hay are largely grown. I am satisfied the safest, surest, and most practical way to realize "\$500 More a Year Farming" is to recognize the importance and value of grass: first as a land improver, second as a crop producer, and third as a money saver and maker. No farmer has ever been able to give a sound and sane reason for growing a large special crop, requiring the time and expense of delivery and marketing, and then using the proceeds in buying farm products that can be produced at home. The most inexcusable of all purchases is hay for the farm animals. If there is any one thing a farmer can do that ought to make him think himself less of a farmer, less of a citizen, and less of a man, it is when he meets his friends and neighbors

as he returns with a few bales of hay to his 500-acre farm, yet posing as a farmer. The purpose of this article is to arouse and awaken interest in this all-important and essential branch of farming.

Grass Will Grow in All Sections.

"My farm won't take in grass," or "This section is not adapted to grass," are common expressions, but very mistaken ones. From the sands of the seashore, reaching across the plains to the mountain tops, grasses are found, and others are adapted to these different soils and climate, ready for the use of farm animals. Study your soil. Write to your Commissioner of Agriculture for help and information. Give him all the particulars you can as to the

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