

PLAN NOW FOR FUTURE PASTURES.

Sow the Terraces With Bur Clover or Hairy Vetch—Let the Seed Scatter and Re-Sow the Land.

By Prof. J. F. Duggar.

PROBABLY NOT until the boll weevil arrives will some farmers be impressed with the folly of devoting the most run-down parts of the farm to cotton. When they do so awake, a use must be found for these poorer lands. Most of them should be utilized for pasturage.

In anticipation of this use, it is none too early now to prepare them for furnishing an increased amount of pasturage.

The most inexpensive present step that can be taken in this direction, if it be thought best to continue the cultivation of the land for a few more years, is to sow on the terraces some pasture plants which in time will spread over the entire field.

Among the clovers and grasses most suitable for sowing on the terraces are bur clover, hairy vetch, and Bermuda grass. There is no haste about putting out the latter, the roots of which are better planted in the spring or early summer. On the other hand the season for sowing bur clover will soon be past and only a few months remain in which vetch can be advantageously sown.

The Southern variety of bur clover should be sown in August, or not later than the middle of September. It requires earlier sowing than any of the other winter-growing forage plants. This is because the seeds are inclosed in a bur, or twisted pod, which at first holds the particles of soil away from the seed and thus prevents the continuous moistening of the seed by the damp soil particles, which dampness is necessary before germination can occur. Therefore time must be given for the pod to soften and partially decay and for the soil to be packed by the force of the raindrops and by other agencies close up against the seed.

If the germination of the seed of bur clover is delayed until the late fall, quite a number of the young plants, entering the winter without a strong root system, will be lifted out of the ground by alternate freezes and thaws, or be greatly delayed or dwarfed in growth.

Southern bur clover has been found harder towards cold and more productive than the California variety. Yet the latter makes a fair substitute except in severe winters. Moreover, the Southern kind does not require intentional inoculation, while the California seed should be inoculated with soil from a field of bur clover or of alfalfa.

Bur clover re-seeds freely and will gradually spread from the terraces as

soon as the land is thrown out of cultivation.

Hairy vetch even more quickly spreads over the land from the terraces. This is because as soon as the pods ripen they burst forcibly, throwing the seeds as far as several yards. Vetch requires inoculation with soil from another patch of any kind of vetch, or with soil from a part of the garden where English peas have grown within the preceding year or two.

In sowing either bur clover or vetch on a terrace it is usually practicable to open a furrow with a scooter in the midst of the wild vegetation usually found on the terrace. If

not, the use of a rotary hand planter, costing about a dollar, will be practicable with vetch seed, the seed being dropped into holes made by the planter at the distance desired by the party doing the work. It will even pay to plant these two kinds of seed in hills along terrace banks by the use of a hoe, as in replanting corn.

The planting of terraces in bur clover or vetch not only serves gradually to seed the land to these valuable forage and soil-improving plants, but also to protect the terraces against breaking in winter. Live roots are great soil-binders, and every green growth in winter strengthens the terrace line. Moreover, fields where the terraces are occupied for several years by these plants will usually be thoroughly inoculated throughout their entire extent by the time that it is desirable to have either of these pasture plants occupy the entire surface.

LITTLE JOURNEYS TO THE HOMES OF GOOD FARMERS.

Mr. W. S. Cobb, of Robeson County, N. C.

By Clarence Poe.

HE TOOK ME to his house in an automobile; we got out and went into a house lighted by electricity; when I went to my room I found the house fitted with an up-to-date system of water-works; there was a typewriter on the desk and a telephone alongside it.

And this man was a farmer and had made his money farming! More than this, young man, if you are ambitious for a nice home with telephones, water-works, and other modern improvements, and ultimately the automobile, I believe the same energy will earn them for you quicker on the farm than in town. I do not mean say you will be sure to get all these by farming, but I do mean that if you have the ability to get them at all—as you should—then the same enterprise and industry applied to farm work will get these things for you more quickly than the same effort put into town work.

I. The man I have set out to write up is Mr. W. S. Cobb, a 35-year-old farmer in Robeson County, N. C., and he started out farming 17 years ago with a poor farm, poor tools, and with no better conditions than the average 18-year-old farm boy who will read this article.

But Cobb had his eyes open. He was not content to do things merely as his neighbors and as his father and grandfather had done them. Some of his land was very hard and he decided that he needed a heavy two-horse plow for breaking it. He did not want a two-horse plow then because he wanted deeper breaking—he came to that later. What he wanted was a heavier plow for his hard, unmanageable soil. "My neighbors told me that I would ruin my land," Mr. Cobb told me the other day; but he was "set in his ways"—only his "ways" were ways of progress instead of "ways" of stagnation, as are those of so many people who are "set." He bought his two-horse plow—and the local merchant who ordered the first one for him 17 years ago now sells \$900 worth a season.

II.

And so Cobb went on. He began to get the stumps out of the land. The stump uses land and pays never

a copper rent, and Cobb decided that stumps had to go. He also began to ship truck crops to Northern markets. Deeper plowing, cowpeas, two crops a year—all sorts of progressive ideas found favor with him. He began to make money, and after ten or twelve years he felt able to put up a beautiful \$10,000 residence—having, of course, married in the meantime a true helpmeet. And now, with his land cleared of stumps and put in the best of condition, which was his first great expense, his house built and another tract of land purchased. (Continued on page 700.)



MR. W. S. COBB.

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