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CLARENCE POE,	President and Editor
TAIT BUTLER,	Vice-President and Editor
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BY JUST two majority the North Carolina Senate last Friday night voted against the proposed constitutional amendment for Land Segregation Between the Races. The advocates of this measure have just begun to fight and are abundantly satisfied with the rapid progress already made in less than two years of agitation. Two years from now they will surely compel the North Carolina Legislature to submit this amendment to the people, and even before that time it is likely that the amendment will be submitted in other states. As surely as the sun shines the plan is coming.

OF COURSE you are saving last week's Reference Special, for there will be many a day this year when you will need to refer to it. See that yours is carefully filed away pending the time when you will need some information and need it at once.

THE Raleigh Christian Advocate is the latest religious paper to take action against accepting patent medicine advertising in the future. Ten years from now a patent medicine quack's advertisement in a religious paper will be as big a curiosity as a whiskey advertisement or the advertisement of a lottery.

FEATURES of our issue next week will be articles on how to make good pastures, and more letters on saving clover seed this spring. Just now these are or should be two mighty important subjects with Southern farmers, and what is said about them in our next issue will be well worth reading.

GOOD preparation is indeed half cultivation, as is well brought out in the discussions on other pages of this issue. Clods keep the seed from coming up; cause weak and stunted plants; make dry weather a menace to be dreaded; and hinder cultivation sometimes all the season. Give your crops a square deal by starting them off right.

IN THE closing hours of Congress the Senate passed a rural credits bill carrying \$10,000,000 to be lent to farmers in sums ranging from \$300 to \$10,000. The length of loans was fixed at ten years and the interest rate of 5 per cent. House and Senate failed to agree, however, and so the whole rural credits issue goes over till next session. Farmers must then begin fighting the very day Congress meets and never let up till it adjourns.

THE last three years have seen an immense increase in the crimson clover acreage in the South, and it will never do now, because of high-priced seed as a result of the European war, to let the good work lag. The truth is that we don't have to go to Europe for seed, but can grow our own right at home. These can be harvested, too, without any expensive machinery. It has been amply proved that the unthreshed seed are just as good for planting as the clean seed, and there is no excuse for not saving an ample supply this spring. Study the drawing on our front page this week and begin work now on your clover seed stripper.

IT'S a good point Mr. J. Z. Green makes when he says that if muscle and physical effort alone were the test, mules would make better farmers than men. His whole pertinent paragraph on this subject is worth reprinting:

"Hard work in the fields alone has never made a successful farmer. It is only well-directed energy that produces best results. If the exertion of physical power alone were all that is required to make a good farmer the mule would be a better farmer than the man, for he is stronger and can do more work than the man. And yet we are not far removed from the time when the common idea prevailed

that the hardest-working man in the community was the best farmer, and 'book farming' was ridiculed and held in contempt. We must always do a job of work in our minds before we do it with our hands, and it is efficiently done just in proportion as it has been efficiently worked out in the mind."

Sell Some Land to Good White Neighbors

WE COMMEND to all our readers the article on another page, "Sell Some Land to Good White Neighbors." All over the South there are thousands of men who are keeping themselves and their families in virtual want holding on to more land than they need or can profitably manage. Moreover, by trying to keep to themselves land enough for three or four thrifty families—or maybe very much more than this—these men are depriving themselves and their loved ones of needed fellowship and comradeship. We mean by this that they are keeping the neighborhood so sparsely settled that there cannot be the friendship, fellowship, and happy social life there ought to be, nor can churches, schools, libraries, clubs, cooperative societies, etc., exist at anything more than a half-dying rate.

Think about it and see if it wouldn't be a good idea if half the farmers in your neighborhood would cut their farms in two, sell the extra half of the acreage to thrifty white farmers, and then all join together to have the most progressive neighborhood possible. Many a present land-owner would not only get more happiness out of life than ever before, but under the changed conditions would find the remaining half of his real estate worth as much as the whole acreage will ever be worth in a backward, sparsely settled community.

You Can't Afford to Buy Feed With Seventy-cent Cotton

THE increase in acreage sown to oats and wheat in the Cotton Belt last fall equalled about 10 per cent of last year's cotton acreage. Owing to the unfavorable conditions for growth last fall, the lateness of seeding and the unfavorable or severe winter weather, a considerable part of the oats sown were winter-killed. Some of this winter-killed oat area has been reseeded to spring oats, but we fear a considerable loss in the acreage in oats still exists, compared with what would have been in oats had none winter-killed.

Some predict that a large part of the land sown to oats last fall, which were winter-killed, will be planted to cotton this spring. This will be a serious mistake, especially if it leads to the growing of less feedstuffs in 1915 than was contemplated last fall.

The South cannot afford to buy a bushel of oats or corn, nor a ton of hay, with the money obtained from the 1915 cotton crop. This not only means that the Southern farmer should grow all the feeds needed for his own use, but that he should also grow enough oats, corn and hay to supply the towns and cities of the South. Every dollar sent out of the South next fall and winter for food and feedstuffs that might have been grown or produced on Southern farms will make the South just that much poorer and reduce by just that much the ready cash available for business and operating expenses.

Shall We Use Nitrate of Soda on the Oat Crop?

IN ACTUAL farm practice no good farmer should have to buy nitrogen, and the fact that a farmer does buy it is evidence that in the past he has not grown clovers, peas and beans as he should have. In such cases, however, the damage has already been done, and there may exist now a pressing necessity for nitrogen, with no immediate means of securing it other than by buying.

An illustration of this may be found right now in many oat fields in the South, where the oats were planted on land impoverished by years of all-cotton culture, and now promise, unless given some help, to fail to make even a fair crop. That

nitrate of soda at the rate of from 75 to 125 pounds per acre may in such cases be used with profit is amply borne out by experiment station evidence.

At the Alabama Station Professor Duggar, on sandy loam land, in four years' tests with nitrate of soda at the rate of 100 pounds per acre in March, obtained an average increase per acre of 18.4 bushels, or practically 50 per cent. At sixty cents a bushel this increased yield amounts to about \$11 an acre, from an investment of not more than \$3 in nitrate of soda.

A few precautions must be observed:

1. If in March the oats planted on rather thin land look yellow and appear to be making insufficient growth, the need for more nitrogen, preferably in the form of nitrate of soda, is indicated.

2. Applications of nitrate of soda should be made at least two months before harvest time. For fall-sown oats this will usually be during the first half of March, and for spring-sown during the latter half.

3. The soda should be sown broadcast and lightly harrowed in, care being exercised to make applications only when the plants are dry. As a general rule we would not advise the use of more than 100 pounds per acre.

Some Fertilizer Facts

WHETHER fertilizers shall all be applied at planting time or used as a side application, has been much debated. Generally, we believe experiment station evidence favors the application of phosphoric acid and potash about planting time, while the more quick acting nitrogenous fertilizers give good results when applied around the crop. Particularly is this true on light, porous soils, where leaching may be excessive. Many side applications are made too late, however, and this is a danger that should be guarded against.

As we study the fertilizer problem, it becomes increasingly evident that commercial fertilizers should be a supplement to our soil-building efforts, rather than the chief dependence. There is no commercial fertilizer made that can take the place of humus, and unquestionably this is the greatest need by far of the average Southern soil. Nitrogen can be bought and applied in many cases at a profit; but who will say that buying it is a less expensive method than using the legumes to draw on the immense store that lies above every farm? Increasingly in the future the successful farmer will be characterized by his abundant use of clovers, peas and beans, supplementing these with phosphoric acid and potash when necessary.

We doubt if there be any one subject more intensely local in nature than that of the use of fertilizers. Of course an abundance of humus, the use of barnyard manures, and the growing of clovers, peas, beans and other legumes to store nitrogen in the soil are practices that are good almost everywhere and under nearly all conditions; but whether a particular crop or a particular soil will pay for an application of commercial nitrogen, phosphoric acid or potash is an entirely different problem. To be able to bring intelligent information to bear upon this problem differentiates in very large measure the good farmer from the poor; the successful man from the man who loses money in his farm operations.

A Thought for the Week

IT IS strange how little in general people know about the sky. It is the part of creation in which Nature has done more for the sake of pleasing man, more for the sole and evident purpose of talking to him and teaching him, than in any other of her works, and it just the part in which we least attend to her. There is not a moment of any day of our lives when Nature is not producing scene after scene, picture after picture, glory after glory, and working still upon such exquisite and constant principles of the most perfect beauty, that it is quite certain it is all done for us, and intended for our perpetual pleasure. And every man, wherever placed, however far from other sources of interest or of beauty, has this done for him constantly. The sky is for all.—John Ruskin.