

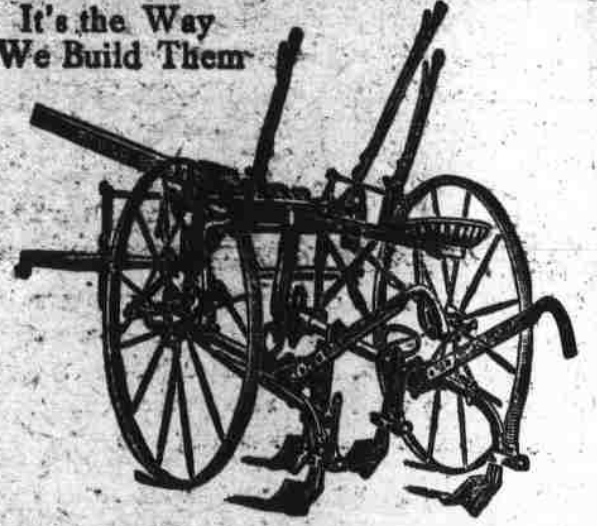
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MARCH TOBACCO FARM WORK

A Farmer's Letter Leads to a Discussion of the Fertilizer Problem—Value of Ashes, Hen Manure, Stable Manure, Etc.

THE following letter from a tobacco farming reader of The Progressive Farmer is interesting and affords a text for my March suggestions to tobacco growers. This correspondent writes:



MR. MOSS

"Fine tobacco has been produced on fresh land by the use of a little stable manure. If you will turn about quickly you can now clean off an acre or two in due time, as there is more potash in fresh land than in old. The best tobacco we made last year was where we burnt some brush on old land. I knew one man to make 1,200 pounds of fine tobacco per acre and used only a mixture of wood ashes and chicken manure. Another man made good tobacco on old land by the application of decayed pine straw. I mention another man who was to give \$1,100 for a 30-acre farm, and paid for it the first year, and he sowed the same land to rye and doubled his money the next year and by that continued winter cover crop his land keeps improving and his prices advancing. I have known peas planted between tobacco hills on thin land to be very valuable in the production of fine tobacco. Though I would not advise the sowing of peas on fresh or fertile land."

This article, coming from a practical tobacco farmer, is very timely. It is true there is more potash in new land than in the corresponding piece of old land adjoining, because the newly cleared land has not been cropped for a number of years with nothing added, and every crop grown on it will take out more or less potash, and unless an equivalent amount of potash is added in commercial fertilizers, there will be less every year.

Still there is one thing that should be kept in mind, and that is: there is enough potash in most of the soils of the South to last perhaps several hundred years if it is rendered available as it is needed. But in order to render it available **humus must be added.**

When new land is cleared up there is a large amount of humus and decaying vegetable matter in the soil and it makes the potash available.

His statement that he made his best tobacco last year on old land where he burnt some brush cannot be doubted, as all tobacco farmers who have had much experience in clearing woodland for tobacco have probably observed that where a brush pile was burned grows the best tobacco in the field. This is caused by the extra amount of potash and phosphoric acid obtained from the wood ashes, in addition perhaps to some change in the physical condition of the soil. Hardwood ashes that have not been leached will analyze about 5 per cent potash and 2 per cent phosphoric acid, in addition to the lime which usually runs about 30 to 35 per cent. However, if much lime is added it has a tendency to darken the tobacco.

Hen manure and wood ashes if added in the right proportion make an excellent mixture for tobacco. Hen manure will average about 1.25 per cent nitrogen, 1 per cent phosphoric acid and 4 per cent potash. For thin land the following mixture will be good: 1,500 pounds hen manure and 500 pounds dry hardwood ashes per acre. The only objection to this is that the phosphoric acid is too low, which can be easily remedied by the addition of 100 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate to the manure and applied on an acre basis. Add 200 pounds 16 per cent acid phosphate for the Piedmont section. Ashes should not be mixed with manure, unless applied at once and covered up.

This month is the time to put out stable manure for tobacco, and as fast as the weather permits, it should be put in the drill and covered up. Later on when the tobacco land is to be gotten ready for planting the furrow should be opened up and the best fertilizer obtainable applied in the drill and then bedded on. By applying the manure early, and later mixing it with the soil, it will be available when the young plants need it, and consequently you will lessen the chance of second growth tobacco about the time it should ripen.

On some land peas can be grown for a year or two without any bad effect on the tobacco crop, but they gather a large amount of nitrogen and unless this is balanced up by the addition of phosphoric acid and potash the chances are that coarse, bony tobacco will be grown. E. G. MOSS, Oxford, N. C.

EASTERN FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Better Marketing, Pear Blight, Apple Storage and British Embargo Live Topics of Discussion

MANY interesting discussions featured the recent meeting of fruit growers of Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and Maryland in Washington, D. C., under the leadership of President S. L. Lupton.

L. M. Estabrook, Federal expert from the Bureau of Crop Estimates, laid bare the work and methods of crop statistics; C. T. Moore, Office of Markets, pointed out the importance of the proper grading of fruit and gave many instances where simple precautions meant bigger dollars for the growers; he wanted better standards and better living up to present standards. Hon. Carter Glass, of Lynchburg, dealt with rural credits and the relation of easier credit to the Eastern and Southern fruit grower.

The prospects for the disposal of apples now in storage was discussed by J. M. Rothwell, of Martinsburg, West Virginia. There are now in storage 4,114,354 barrels of apples, or 15 per cent more than there were a year ago. On the other hand, the holdings are only 73 per cent of what they were on December 1, 1915.

The President asked the pointed question as to whether the time was ripe for a compulsory packing and branding law. There was a difference of opinion as to the desirability of such a law just now, but there was no difference as to the need of some such law as now operates fairly well in New York state. A compulsory law was eventually endorsed.

The pear blight came in for much consideration, the generally accepted average of loss from this disease being around 40 per cent, but the various methods by which the percentage was arrived met not unanimous approval. The most authoritative statement was made by Dr. M. B. Waite, Bureau of Plant Industry, who said that dampness, the activity of birds, bees, and insects in pollenization caused a more rapid spread of the disease. He emphasized the need for more tree surgery rather than promiscuous spraying.

Announcement that American fruit was likely to be shut out from British markets caused much excitement, and some strong resolutions, including some of retaliation, were presented. Eventually a petition was drawn up earnestly requesting the President of the United States to protest against such action by the British Government, and if necessary, institute proceedings of reprisal to prevent such exclusion.

Officers for 1916: S. L. Lupton, Winchester, Va., President; F. C. Adams, Charlottesville, Va., Secretary; E. I. Oswald, Chewsville, Maryland, Treasurer. Vice-Presidents—Isaac Mors, Maryland; D. A. Arnold, West Virginia; Leonard Soper, Delaware; and S. W. Fletcher, Blacksburg, Va.

Mr. Johnson used an Oliver No. 40 Chilled Plow for Thirty-Five Years

Mr. C. S. Johnson of Elnora, Indiana, has used an Oliver No. 40 Plow every year for the past 35 years in sandy loam. He states that the plow is in almost perfect condition.

Mr. Johnson's experience is like that of many others who have used Oliver Plows from 12 to 40 years.

One would naturally expect a plow to rust away before that time.

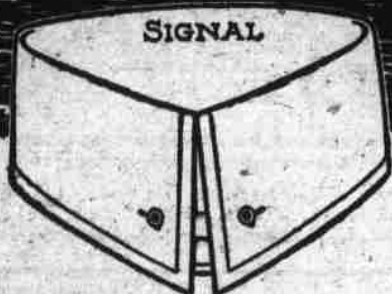
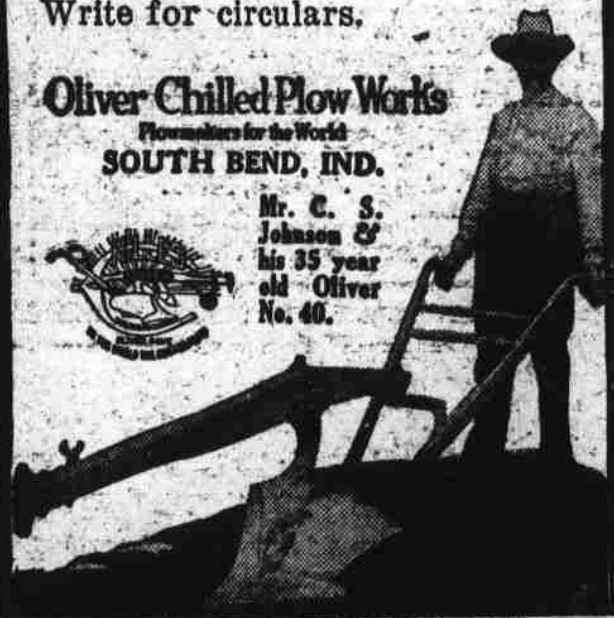
The illustration at the top is a piece of Oliver Chilled Metal exposed to the weather for at least 20 years. The rust on the surface was scraped off, revealing the little tell-tale Oliver chilled check marks plainly visible to the eye.

An Oliver Chilled Plow cannot deteriorate while standing idle because the removal of rust restores the polished mouldboard in as good condition as when the plow was taken out of the ground after last being used.

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