

Feed and food crops can be produced and gathered by machinery and horse-power, and feed products combine well with livestock farming.

One "labor-saving crop" that has been almost entirely neglected in the cotton and tobacco-growing sections is the grass crop for grazing purposes and also for forage. Somebody has defined the pasture on our cotton and tobacco farms as "patches of land where grass won't grow, with wire fences around them."

"I pastured 25 head of cattle and kept them in fine condition all summer on seven acres of Bermuda grass," said a Scotland County farmer to me some time ago. That patch of grass is an example of what Brother Moore would call a "labor-saving crop," and rightly, so, for overhead expenses were almost entirely eliminated while the 25 head of beef steers were growing and fattening on that grass sod.

In Iowa the average per capita farm wealth is \$3,386. Iowa grows "labor-saving crops" and then feeds the bulk of these crops to livestock. Three-fourths of the income of the Iowa farmers is derived from the sale of livestock and the products of livestock. In North Carolina the average per capita wealth is \$322, or less than one-tenth of the per capita retained farm wealth in Iowa. In North Carolina we produce principally hand-made crops, and less than one-third of our total farm income is derived from livestock and the products of livestock. The average value of crops produced per worker in North Carolina is \$236 and in Iowa \$884, representing a difference in favor of "labor-saving crops" and machine-made wealth of \$648 per worker in favor of Iowa.

In this connection it will be well to again call attention to the fact that when white farmers of the South make hand-made crops their specialties, they enter into direct competition with an inferior race of people, of lower living standards, which also produces the greater portion of these hand-made crops, and this makes it all the more imperative for the white farmer to exert his energies in a field of agricultural activity that avoids competition with a race of lower intelligence and lower living standards. Hence "labor-saving crops" in connection with horse-power and machinery and more and better livestock, seem to offer about the only way out for the Southern resident white farmer.

This economic side of the business of farming is fundamentally important, and should be a subject for frequent discussion by organized farmers. Let it be remembered that we have already done our best in attempts to make money with hand-made crops and commercial fertilizers, and if these crops could make a section rich, the South would now be the richest and happiest agricultural section on this continent. And let us also keep it in mind that progress can come only through gradual changes of methods.

J. Z. G.

Annual Convention North Carolina Good Roads Association

THE Annual Good Roads Convention held under the auspices of the North Carolina Good Roads Association will be held at Wilmington and Wrightsville, North Carolina, June 20, 21 and 22. The Board of County Commissioners of New Hanover County and the Chamber of Commerce of Wilmington are making elaborate arrangements for this Convention and it is expected that it will be the largest and most successful good roads convention ever held in the state.

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