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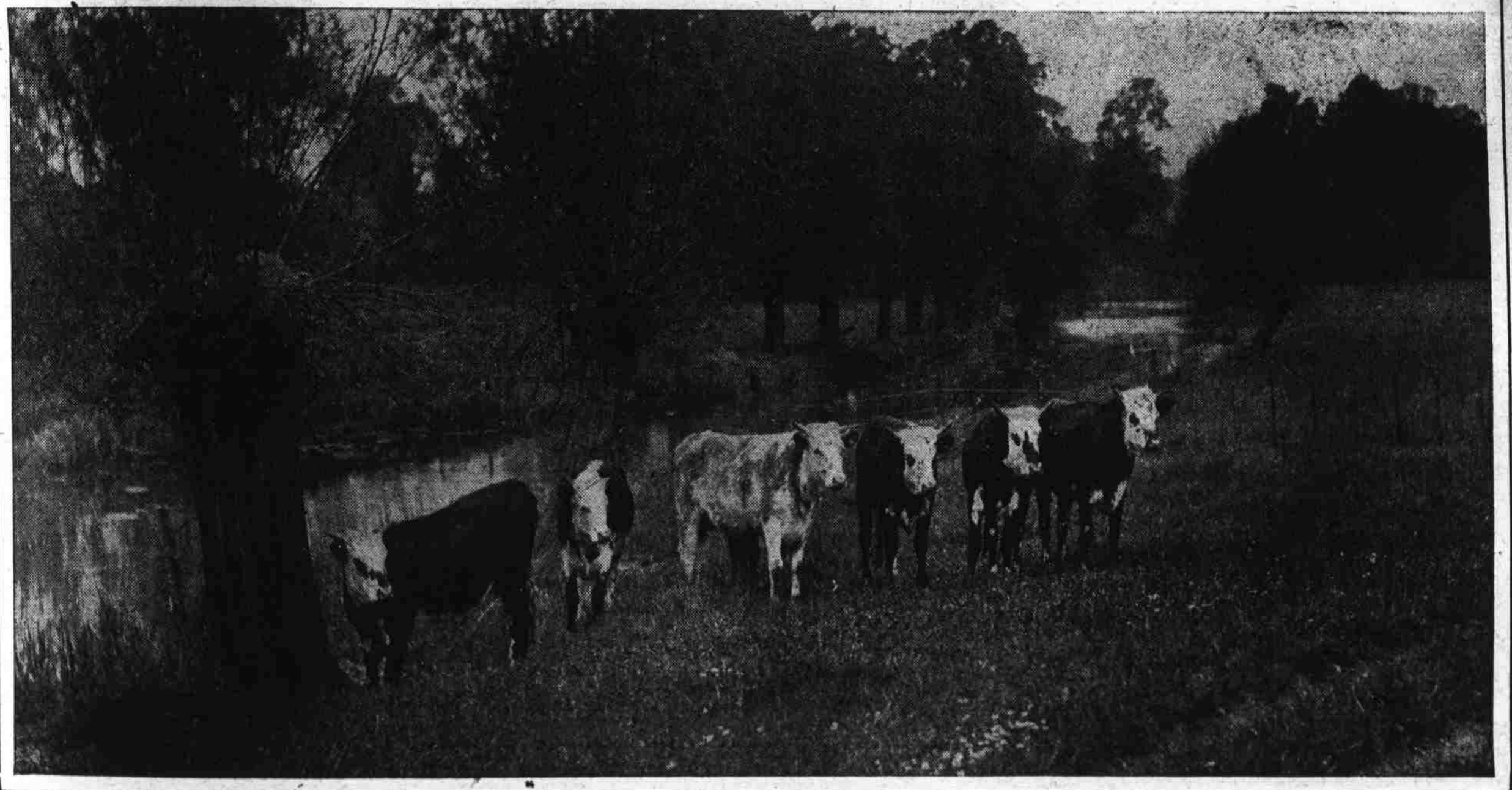
SATURDAY, JUNE 3 1916.

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SAVE THE MOISTURE AND KILL THE WEEDS

AS THIS reaches our readers, there may or may not be in the soil plenty of water for the needs of the crops; but, regardless of the present supply, it is safe to say that between now and their maturity there will come a time when our crops will suffer from a

moisture at the right time large yields are not possible. Consequently the maintenance of a dust mulch or dust blanket one and one-half to two and one-half inches thick is at this season one of our most important jobs. Break and thoroughly pulverize the crusts as soon



DOWN WHERE THE CLOVER GROWS DEEP

shortage of moisture. In most of our territory the annual rainfall is between forty and fifty inches,—an amount, were it all saved for the growing crops, considerably in excess of what is normally needed. The trouble is that we let a large part of this moisture go to waste, and then in times of dry weather our crops suffer.

Those who have been following our series of articles on "Farm Facts Every Boy Should Know" will recall the illustration showing how moisture will rapidly rise through a lump of sugar, but that its upward movement is greatly checked as soon as it reaches the powdered sugar on top of the lump. Exactly the same thing occurs in our fields. The soil, when left hard and unbroken like the lump of sugar, rapidly loses its moisture; but when the surface is kept finely pulverized by frequent cultivation, this upward capillary movement is largely stopped and the water is held for the use of the growing plants.

The moisture supply is a controlling factor in crop production. Without plenty of

after each rain as the soil is dry enough is a fine rule to follow, and if it is carefully followed ordinary drouths need cause little worry.

The second great object of cultivation is to destroy grass and weeds. These foreign growths in our fields are harmful in at least

three ways: They rob our crops of water, they steal plant food, and they appropriate to themselves the sunlight and air that our plants need. A good-sized weed or bunch of grass will steal as much water and plant food as is needed by a stalk of corn or cotton, and all it gives us in return is a heavy crop of its seed to re-infest the land another year. The only safe plan and the only sure way to make certain that weeds are not robbing us is never to let them get a start; but if they do become threatening, clean them out as quickly as possible and by any effective means that will do least injury to the growing crop.

Save the moisture and kill the weeds should be the watchword from now until August.

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