

ALL ROUND THE FARM

"PICK DRY, GIN DRY, STORE DRY"

Violating These Three Rules, Together With Sorry Gins and Careless Ginners, Now Cost Cotton Farmers \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 a Year

IN YOUR campaign for the betterment of the farmers' condition, your editorial staff and many of your correspondents insist upon the necessity of careful preparation of the soil before planting. Now, as cotton-picking is at hand, you would serve your farmer constituents well by pressing upon their attention the importance of careful preparation of cotton for selling. This means preparing it to be spun, for in the end it is to spinners that it must be sold.

Now, these spinners are careful people. They want the cotton which will spin the best; they will pay more for it. Proper ginning of cotton makes a great difference in its spinning value. When it is picked dry and ginned dry in a gin properly handled, it will be smooth and fleecy. It makes what the buyers call a "good sample." That kind brings the best price. When it is picked wet or damp, and ginned wet or damp, or ginned too fast, the sample will show rough, knotty, and, in the worst cases, the lint is torn and broken—"gin-cut." That kind always brings a poor price; often it is hard to sell at all. It is really worth much less. The broken bits of fiber blow out, or are carded out, making more waste, reducing the portion which will make yarn.

The manufacturer takes nothing for granted. He knows daily what is the waste, or loss in weight from pickers to cards; also the gross waste, or total loss of material in process of manufacture. Also the production, the breaking strength of yarn, and every item which tends to show what the mill is doing. Suppose the average loss in weight from pickers to cards is 8 per cent. If, by reason of bad ginning, the same grade loses 10 per cent, this bad ginning costs the mill not merely 2 per cent waste of material, but a nearly equal percentage of loss of labor, an unknown loss in the spinning, where the broken fiber flies into the air, and the damage to the reputation of the mills, from weak yarn and knotty cloth. This last item is not easily reducible to figures, but is probably greater than the other three combined.

With cotton at 10 cents, the waste is equal to \$1 per bale. If the manufacturer can escape the other three items of loss, by paying \$1 per bale more for perfectly ginned cotton, will he do it? As a matter of fact, he does do it, daily, universally, as every cotton buyer knows. A badly ginned bale of cotton, of good middling grade, is "graded down" to middling, or lower; and this means a loss to the planter of \$1.25, or more, which is certain. But this does not make the mills whole. It does not even cover the loss of material, as well posted spinners believe, while the "napped" fiber is never quite "opened," but passes into the yarn, making it weak, and covering the cloth with unsightly knots. Selling agents complain, customers are lost, reputations suffer. The planters themselves will not buy such goods if offered for sale. It is not strange that mills are very shy of such cotton. It is doubtful if \$5 per bale would induce them to take it in any quantity; and if such gin-work is found to prevail in a locality, that market is shunned, good cottons suffering, along with the bad, the reduction in price due to scant orders.

The writer has known a market where the price ruled 1/8 cent lower, the season through, than in a market of same size 60 miles away, in the

same state, on the same river, with the same character of lands, and same freight rates. The planters who sold in that town pay \$40,000 a year for the privilege of patronizing a few badly managed gins, or unskilled ginners! This is in addition to the regular reduction of \$1.25 to \$2.50 per bale on "gin-cut" cotton.

There is no reason why they should continue this loss. The time is past when there is any need that the fiber be torn, cut or wedged into hard "naps" by the saws. There are gins which, skillfully worked, will deliver the lint in its full length, soft and fleecy. Such ginning does not cost any more than the bad sort. Indeed it often costs less, and can be made to cost much less. If planters demand expert gin work, if they will take no other, the demand will be speedily met.

Then, too, we should end forever the practice of laying the bales on the ground, in the weather, often without any covering, and sometimes actually under the eaves of the barn or other building, to receive the water that falls. It is not easy to see



CORN AFTER CRIMSON CLOVER MAKING 45 TO 50 BUSHELS PER ACRE
Scene on Farm of N. J. Johnston, Cullman, Ala., Who Has Found Crimson Clover One of the Greatest of All Crops

how a sensible farmer can get his consent to spend time and money growing the cotton, and then take pains to make it rot. It is impossible to imagine a reason for such a proceeding. A good authority estimated the average loss in weight of damaged bales the past season at 40 pounds to the bale. This is clear loss, for the rotten cotton will scarcely fetch enough to pay for taking it off. But in reality we see the thing done every year, and done by farmers who pass for sensible men. How long would these farmers have to wait before seeing a manufacturer leave his newly-made box of calico out in the rain or under the drip of a building? And who is most in need of economy, the farmer or the manufacturer?

Comment on this practice is useless. Indeed the story would be incredible, if one had not the evidence of his eyes; but it does seem a bad thing that the farmer, whose life is one of the most laborious, should destroy the fruit of his labor in this manner.

Twenty-five years ago the writer was urging the importance of both subjects here treated, and it is depressing to observe that in the quarter century farmers have made little progress in these matters. They still allow their cotton to be ginned wet; and they still store it on top of the bare ground, under nothing but the sky; and these practices are frequent, not rare.

Is there no argument or persuasion which will induce men to spare themselves loss and waste by stopping practices which afford no pleasure and no sort of advantage?

J. P. COOPER.

Rome, Ga.

COTTON ANTHRACNOSE CAN BE PREVENTED

Now Is the Time to Rid Your Farm of This Disease

REPORTS from all over South Carolina indicate that this fungus boll rot of cotton is more widespread and more destructive in all sections of the state than ever before. Those who have followed the progress of the investigation of this disease at Clemson will remember that anthracnose can be controlled by careful seed selection, fall plowing, and crop rotation.

If possible, get planting seed from a field where there is no disease. If this is impossible, select seed from stalks which are absolutely free from disease and are not near diseased stalks. Gin this cotton for seed by hand, or at a gin where no diseased cotton has been ginned and plant on land that has not been in cotton for one year.

After cotton has been left off of land for one year, it is safe to plant the same land back to cotton pro-

of some officer in each county, for example the county clerk or county treasurer, and blanks of this kind supplied free to lawyers, real estate firms, farm owners or farm renters?

"You will pardon my taking the liberty to make this inquiry, but your suggestion is so practical and contains so much of great possible value to all sections of the South that I have been constrained to say this much about it."

We may say that we have printed a number of these rental contents, and will be glad to send them to our readers for one cent each.

Clod Crusher Makes Good Oats Seed Bed

MANY farmers think that they do not need a clod crusher because they have no clods. Even on sandy soils the clod crusher is a valuable implement for the oats seed bed. According to E. S. Pace, district agent for the University of Florida, Extension Division, it packs the soil around the oats seed and leaves the surface mulched.

The hull on the oat kernel holds the soil away from the seed and prevents absorption of moisture. If the crusher is run over the ground the soil will be brought in closer contact with the seed. The clod crusher will firm the soil so that capillary moisture can rise and still it will mulch the surface so that evaporation will be slow.

Better germination can be had by using this implement for the foregoing reason, and maximum yields cannot be had without a good stand. Fields that have been thus packed will not lose soil by wind drifting as readily as those where the surface is loose.

Wheat Yielded More by the Use of Lime

"NEITHER manure nor any combination of fertilizers has been able to produce a full yield of wheat without the help of lime," said Director C. E. Thorne regarding the value of lime on soil similar to that of the Ohio Experiment Station at Wooster. This year manured land yielded 21 to 26 per cent more wheat where lime was applied. Another plot fertilized with nitrate of soda, acid phosphate and muriate of potash gave 21 per cent more wheat where limed than on unlimed soil similarly fertilized. The yield on a plot receiving complete fertilizer with nitrogen in sulphate of ammonia gave 115 per cent increase in crop by application of lime.

The Implement Shed

FROM now till next spring most of the implements of cultivation will not be used, nor will the planters. The place for them, and for all other implements not in use every day, is under the shed. Why? What does a man work for? Implements cost money. Exposure to the elements causes them to rust, warp and decay. When they are gone more work must be done to get more money to buy more implements, when just a little work and a little care at the right time would have made them last a year or two or three longer.—Clemson College Bulletin.

Wanted: 50,000 Names Of Northern, Eastern and Western Farmers

WE WISH to send them a copy of our October 21 "Homeseekers' Special." This issue will be devoted to facts about agriculture in the South. There are great opportunities here for them.

Can't you send us a list?

The more you send, the better we will like it.

Says All Tenants and Landlords Should Use the Progressive Farmer Rental Contract

WE ARE in receipt of a letter from Mr. F. H. Abbott, District Agent of the Southern Settlement and Development Organization, Baltimore, Md., in which he heartily approves of our suggestion that a written contract be made between landlord and tenant, and also endorsing the form of contract printed in the recent Renters' and Landlord's Special of The Progressive Farmer. Mr. Abbott says;

"I was moved to write a note of congratulation when I read your splendid special number on consolidated schools some time ago, but this letter is prompted particularly by the suggested form of rental contract in your September 9 issue. That is an excellent form of contract, both as to simplicity of style and substance, which if followed generally, not only in the South but throughout the country, would mean very much both to the man on the land and the land itself. Is there not some way that the form of contract suggested by you could be brought to the attention