

NEXT WEEK—BETTER GARDENS AND ORCHARDS SPECIAL

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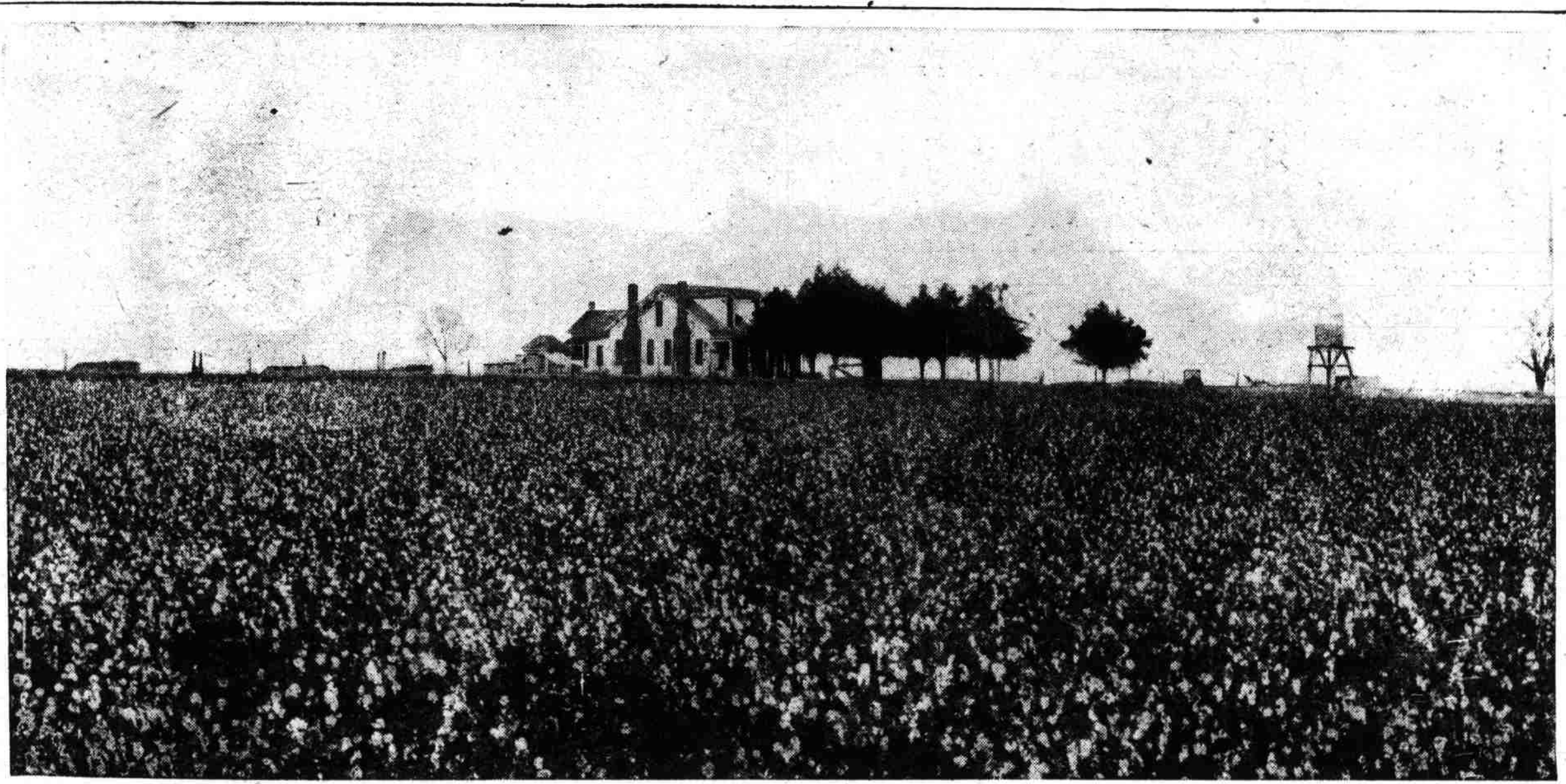
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TERRACE THE ROLLING FIELDS.

THE Southern farmer has no bigger job than that of soil-saving and soil-building. The poor-land farmer has a handicap in the beginning that the very best of methods along other lines can

Keeping our lands in sod will of course largely prevent their washing away; but the time probably will never be when a very large area in the South will not be planted to cotton, tobacco and corn—the clean



BALE-TO-THE-ACRE COTTON ON FERGUSON SEED FARMS, SHERMAN, TEXAS

hardly overcome; but the rich-land farmer, even with poor tillage methods, poor seed and poor marketing, very generally is able to make good crops and some profits.

The very first step in making our lands rich and keeping them so is to prevent the waste of the plant food elements that nature gave them and those that we ourselves apply. On tens of thousands of fields our methods are much like trying to fill at the bunghole a barrel with the head knocked out: we apply fertilizers year after year, only to let the heavy rains leach and wash away, forever beyond our reach, the very cream of these.

We speak advisedly when we say that 90 per cent of the cultivated farm lands in the South are subject to serious erosion unless properly handled. Travel from Virginia to Texas, and the gully is everywhere one of the conspicuous features of the landscape. But the time has come for an about-face, and as never before our best farmers are realizing this. They know that without soil-saving and soil-building profitable farming is out of the question, and are shaping their plans accordingly.

culture crops. This being true, on our rolling lands the rightly built terrace must be used to save our fertility.

Made right, the terrace is no obstacle to the use of implements, nor is it a nursery for harmful weeds and insects, as is the old-fashioned, razor-back terrace. Properly laid off and dragged and plowed up to a width of 15 or 20 feet, rows are laid off right on the terrace, and generally the best cotton and corn in the field are growing on it. And once built, good terraces are permanent, holding the land and helping it to get better year after year, instead of poorer, as is now too often the case.

If you are farming rolling land, you must, sooner or later, come to the broad, cultivated terrace; so why not do it now, before another year's heavy rains have further depleted your plant food supply? Practically every experiment station and extension agency in the South is now giving serious thought to this problem, and yours in your state can help you. Get in touch with your county demonstration agent, or, if you have none, write your state agricultural college.

We must save our rolling cultivated fields, and the broad terrace is the first step in doing so. Better start on them today.

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