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THIS WEEK'S FEATURES.

CO-OPERATIVE TOBACCO WAREHOUSES.

—Mr. O. L. Joyner, the veteran tobacco warehousemen of Greenville, is convinced that the most feasible immediate plan of relief for tobacco growers is through the co-operative warehouse, so that growers may get a profit on selling the product, as well as in raising it (when there in any). In this issue he tells the interesting story of how a score or more of Pitt County tobacco farmers organized a co-operative farmers' warehouse and have made it a great financial success. Pages 1 and 5.

IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS.—Having spent much of his life in the West, Mr. A. L. French realizes that one great advantage the Westerner has over the Southern farmer is in the use of labor-saving machinery. (And here, too, is another field for co-operation; farmers ought to combine and buy costly tools and machinery in a partnership plan.) Page 2.

CARE OF ORCHARDS.—Prof. Massey makes some further suggestions as to the care of the orchard after the trees are set. Page 2.

STARTING WITH POULTRY.—M. J. S. Jeffrey contributes a sensible letter, advising beginners to start cautiously and grow up in the business gradually. Page 3.

COTTON CROP ESTIMATES.—An interesting review of the several predictions by leading houses. Page 4.

A COTTON TRUST TO INSURE STABLE PRICES.—A leader of the Southern Cotton Association outlines a plan for a \$50,000,000 corporation designed to unite growers, spinners and brokers and insure stable and profitable prices. Page 4.

WHEN A FARMER GETS OLD.—One of the best articles we have printed for many a day. We commend to all old farmers "Uncle Henry's" secrets of a happy old age. Page 6.

THAT OLD FIELD OF YOURS.—Dr. Burkett tells how to restore it to profit and beauty. Page 9.

GROWTH OF TRUCKING.—A Wilmington boy presents an interesting review of the development of strawberry and lettuce growing in Eastern Carolina. Page 11.

THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Small Grain.

Last Monday the Cotton Association of the county met. The subject for consideration was "Small Grain." Prof. C. L. Newman, Assistant Instructor in Agriculture, was present on invitation, and gave an instructive talk. He stated that analysis showed that the first foot of compact clay in the Piedmont section contained nearly four tons of potash and two tons of phosphoric acid that was locked up in the compact clay and could be rendered available only by sowing small grain and leguminous crops and a systematic system of rotation with deep plowing. The soil should be deepened gradually by breaking about two inches every year and incorporating that with the top soil. But deep plowing, the breaking of the hard pan and underlying clay, was worth little unless humus or vegetable matter was added by sowing small grain and following with peas. Small grain will force rotation, the sowing of cowpeas, the preservation of land from leaching and washing, the addition of humus, fall plowing and enable the farmer to secure two crops in a year and improve the soil at the same time. All this will lead up to the raising of stock and

everything else needed on the farm that the land will supply. The raising of live stock lies at the foundation of permanent and progressive agriculture. Another advantage is that small grain and peas are the best grass and weed killers known. All the grasses or weeds known as pests can be killed out in two years by keeping the ground shaded with small grain and peas. One year is generally enough. It requires fewer hands to cultivate a farm when one-third of it is sown down. Labor saving machinery can be used in planting and harvesting small grain and peas. The productive capacity of soil can be greatly increased. The farmer who now makes eight bales of cotton on sixteen acres will soon make eight bales on eight acres, when he improves his land. The cost of production will be diminished. These were some of the advantages.

The Onion Crop.

Since there are many buyers of onions in this Piedmont country the crop is increasing in importance. There have been some wonderful yields reported, especially in Texas, in which State an acre has been made to produce \$1,000 worth. This is a good climate for onions. With a little pains they can be kept well during the warm summer. The usual way to raise them is from small sets. The red and yellow varieties are generally considered best. The sets may be put out October 1st to December 1st, or in open weather in February. The way to raise sets with least trouble is to select a thin piece of land that will not produce grass and weeds. Poor land makes the best sets. Plant the seed in rows about a foot apart, putting a little fertilizer or finely pulverized manure in the hill. Cultivate them several times. They will be ready to gather as soon as the tops die. Solid sets, a half inch in diameter, are best size. The intensive system of culture should be used for onions. That is, they should be planted thick and highly manured. If the rows are a foot apart and the sets twelve inches apart, 5,435 may be raised on one-eighth of an acre, or a plat 60x91 feet. The potato onion is the heaviest yielder, and will make about three times as many as the sets. The best plan to get sets is to plant the seed thick under cover, and then transplant them. That plan is not practiced in the South. The onion demands nearly equal quantities of nitrogen and phosphoric acid, and twice as much potash as nitrogen. Wood ashes worked into the soil will furnish the potash and lime necessary for onions. If commercial fertilizers are used, the phosphoric acid and nitrogen should be about equal and twice the quantity of potash. For one-eighth of an acre about 200 to 250 pounds of a fertilizer that would show 5 per cent each of phosphoric acid and ammonia and eight per cent of potash would be about right.

The Cotton Chopper.

For years men have been exercising their inventive skill to make a cotton chopper that would chop out cotton. Blannie C. Butler, of Darlington County, is exhibiting a one-horse machine here that looks as if it would do the work on well prepared land without stumps and stones. It is a simple, strong machine with a revolving hoe that cuts out twelve inches and leaves one inch. The hoe can be made so that it will cut out six inches and leave one. Without stopping the machine a brake may be applied that will stop the hoe when cotton is thin. Of course this is intended to be used only one time and when cotton is just up to a stand. If it works well a man can chop six acres daily. Mr. Butler is sanguine as to the success of the machine and he is going to have them manufactured here on a large scale.
CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

A TOBACCO FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE WAREHOUSE COMPANY.

Mr. O. L. Joyner Describes the Successful Test of a Plan Which He Believes the Best Immediate Scheme of Relief for Growers of the Weed.

On the 13th day of October, 1903, there assembled in the Farmers' Tobacco Warehouse in Greenville, N. C., eighteen of twenty Pitt County tobacco farmers who by mutual agreement had come together for the purpose of organizing a "tobacco farmers co-operative warehouse company," having for its object primarily the making of money for its stockholders, but ultimately for the purpose of bringing the tobacco growers together into a successful business organization.

Several unsuccessful attempts had been previously made to organize the tobacco farmers, and naturally enough these gentlemen felt that many obstacles would have to be removed before a successful organization could be effected; therefore, in the beginning they moved with caution and prudence. They realized that in employing the long-established warehouse business (a business supported absolutely and entirely by the tobacco farmers) as a means of bringing about the organization of the tobacco growers, they were invading a field of hitherto undisputed territory. They fully understood that once started, the organization would be stubbornly contested by the warehousemen and others whose interest it always is to throw stumbling blocks in the way of farmers' movements, and that every effort would be employed to defeat the organization; therefore, it was of the utmost importance that their every move should be carefully studied and that no mistake be made.

After carefully and minutely going over the situation thoroughly in its every detail, a plan of procedure was decided upon.

First of all, it was agreed that the organization was to be a plain open-and-shut business proposition; no appeal was to be made to the farmers from any sentimental point of view; no prejudice was to be played on. It was simply and purely a business matter.

In adopting this plan, they understood fully that more time would be required and the exercise of more patience would be necessary; but they were deeply imbued with the fact that upon such a foundation and with such machinery, a more permanent and lasting organization could be effected.

In drafting the charter special care was taken to see to it that it was sufficiently broad and liberal to serve the purposes of the votaries, yet sufficiently strong and proscriptive to protect it from designers and schemers who might want to use it for selfish ends.

Under the plan of organization adopted by this small but determined number of farmers, it required a majority of the stockholders to shape its policies, whereas in most incorporated companies it is a majority of the money represented that controls. While from a strictly modern business point of view this is seemingly an objectionable feature yet for the purpose of the organization it is one of its strongest safeguards. Under this plan it is well nigh impossible for any man or set of men arbitrarily to get control.

Again, under the plan adopted no one person is allowed to own more than a certain number of shares (fifty is the maximum at the par value of \$10), and the largest stockholder is allowed no more voice in voting at the meetings of the company than the smallest one.

If at any time a stockholder should want to dispose of his stock, the organization requires him

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