

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

A Farm and Home Weekly for the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER—VOL. XXII. NO. 5.
THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXIV. NO. 4.

RALEIGH, N. C., MARCH 14, 1907.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

Cotton—A Bale per Acre Should be Our Minimum and not Our Maximum.

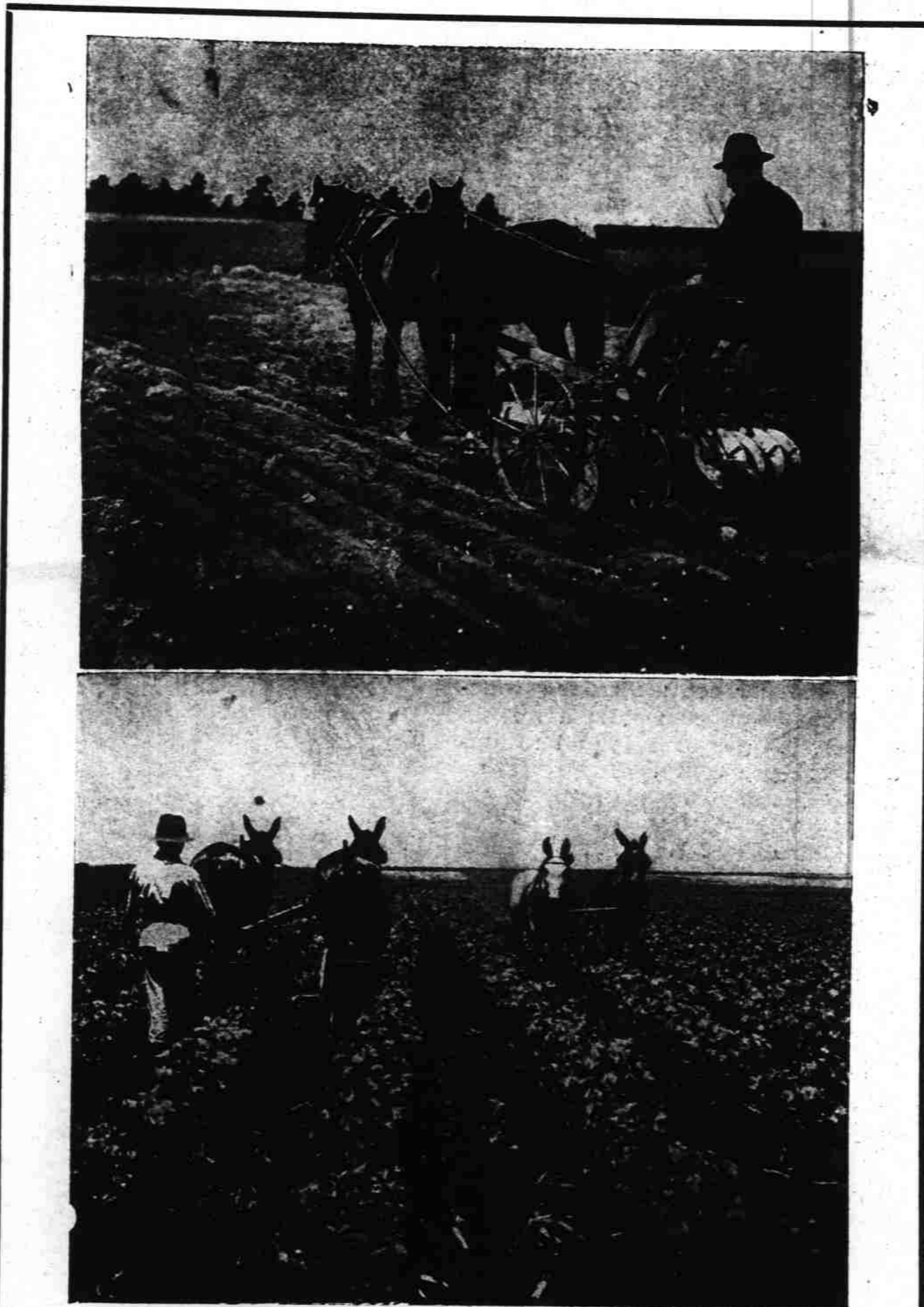
"Cotton—what a royal plant it is!" Henry Grady once exclaimed. "The world waits in attendance on its growth; the shower that falls whispering on its leaves is heard around the earth; the sun that shines on it is tempered by the prayers of all the people; the frost that chills it and the dew that descends from the stars are noted, and the trespass of a little worm upon its green leaf is more to England than the advance of the Russian army on her Asian out-posts. It is gold from the instant it puts forth its tiny shoot. Its fibre is current marshaled under a flag that will compel the allegiance of the world and wring a subsidy from every nation on earth."

This eloquent tribute to the South's great staple crop is even truer to-day, if possible, than when Grady uttered it twenty years ago—and still we have but a half appreciation of the importance of King Cotton. We do not treat it as its royalty deserves. We are reckless in selecting seed for planting. We plow as if we if we owned only three or four inches of the soil's upper crust. We impoverish the land by the one-crop system. We fail to grow legumes enough to feed the land. We use expensive and out-of-date methods of cultivation. We make a bale per acre our maximum when it should be our minimum. And with a monopoly of the world's chief clothing material safe in our grasp, we refuse to combine as we should in demanding a proper price for the lint we grow.

It is the purpose of this number of The Progressive Farmer to call attention to each of the faults above enumerated by means of which we humiliate King Cotton and injure ourselves, and to urge each cotton farmer to avoid these errors in his 1907 farming. To our aid we have summoned the most successful farmers and farming authorities in the Carolinas and Georgia, and every letter printed is a strong presentation of some one or more of these subjects. Let us consider the articles in order.

On page 2 our Prof. Kilgore handles the question of fertilizing. In the very outset he makes it plain that we are spending millions every year for ammoniated fertilizers that might be saved to us if we would keep humus in our lands by growing cow-peas and clovers and by proper rotation of crops. The formulas he gives will be found useful either in home-mixing or in deciding what brands of ready-mixed goods to buy, and his advice in regard to the best forms of potash and nitrogen to use and the advisability of making two applications instead of one, is especially timely.

On page 3 Prof. Newman, of the South Carolina Experiment Station, contributes an interesting discussion of varieties, especially notable being his prediction that in a few years the long staple varieties of cotton will be more largely grown than the short staple sorts. And on the same page Mr. Lane points out the folly of putting land to cotton and making only one-half bale per acre on it when it would grow forty or fifty bushels of peanuts, or 150 to 200 bushels of sweet potatoes—double the net re-



SAVING THE LABOR OF ONE MAN.

With the growing scarcity of labor, the imperative question with farmers is not so much how to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before as to make one laborer do the work that two did before; and here it is that modern implements and machinery come to the farmer's relief—enabling one man and two horses to cultivate as much land as two men and two horses would cultivate with old-fashioned one-horse equipment. The photographs herewith—reprinted from "Cotton," by Burkett and Poe; Doubleday, Page & Co., Publishers—illustrate both the wisest method of preparing land for cotton and of cultivating it, two rows at the time instead of one, after the crop starts.

turns with but one-half the cost of harvesting.

Perhaps none of our articles is more useful than that of Mr. S. H. Hobbs. Every paragraph counts. His advice about substituting light Simmons No. 2 hoes for the heavier sort now generally used will do much to save labor and chopping. And he is everlastingly right in saying that "a Southern man ought to count it a

disgrace ever to be caught buying another bushel of corn or pound of hay."

Continuing the subject of long staple cotton taken up by Mr. Newman on page 2, we are printing on page 5 an article giving seven rules for success, as worked out by Mr. J. C. Stribling, while Mr. Daniel Lane on the same page makes a further contribution on the subject of fertilizers.

Besides making the cotton, however, we have the problem of getting the best prices for it after it is made. Here Mr. Charles Cotton Moore calls attention to the Cotton Association. On this subject, however, we shall have much to say through the year; and the Farmers' Union will also have its full share of attention in our columns.

An intensely practical letter is that of Mr. H. M. Johnson, on page 7. His explicit directions as to the kinds of tools and kinds of fertilizers to use cannot fail to be helpful.

This review is growing so long, however, that we find ourselves able to give only a bird's-eye view of the remaining features of the paper. On page 10 we have summarized the opinions of a number of wide-awake farmers who have broken away from old lines and made daring tests of growing cotton without hand-chopping. A subject of the greatest practical value, we especially commend these experiences to the attention of our readers. Enormous indeed would be the saving if such progressive methods were adopted by cotton growers throughout the South; and the experiments of Messrs. Bagwell, Marton, Stribling, and Brown ought to be brought to the attention of every man in the South who raises

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