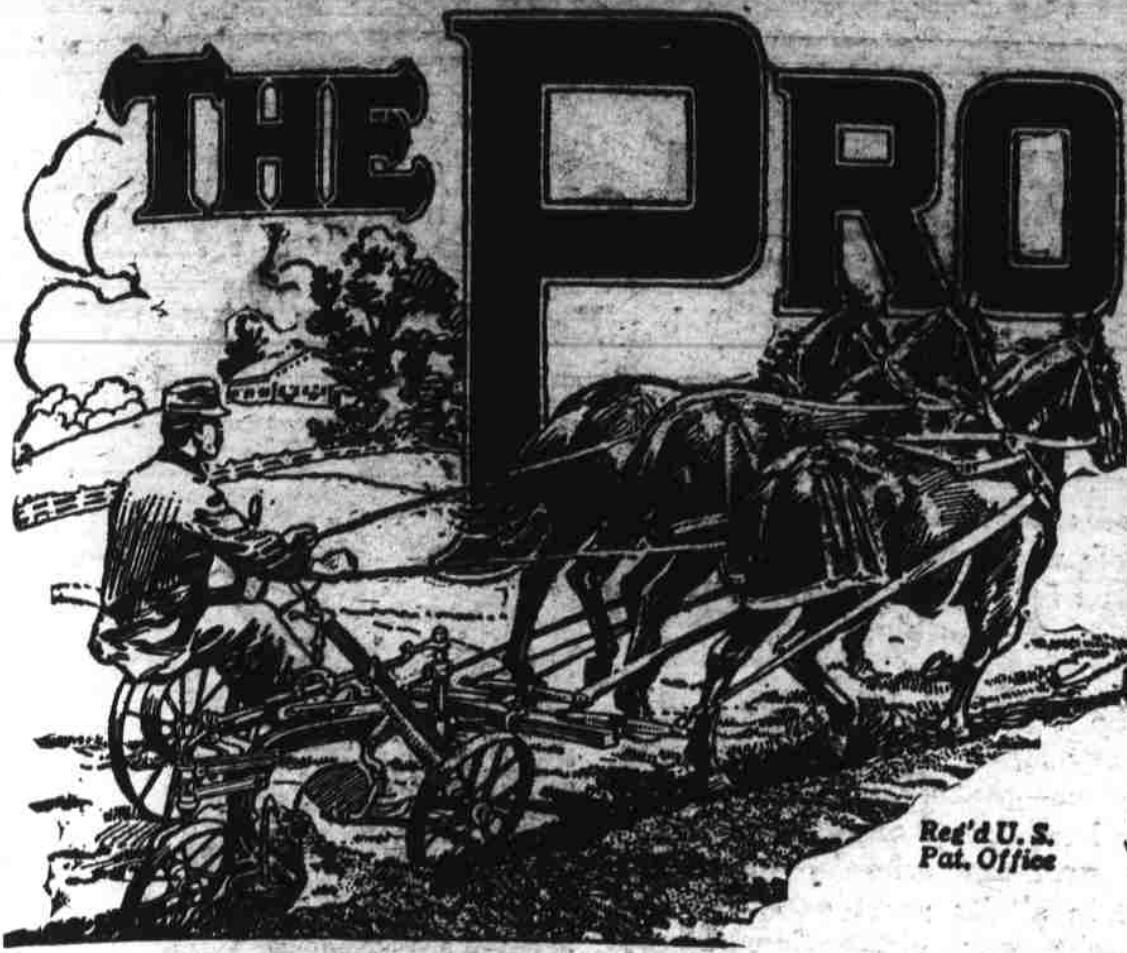


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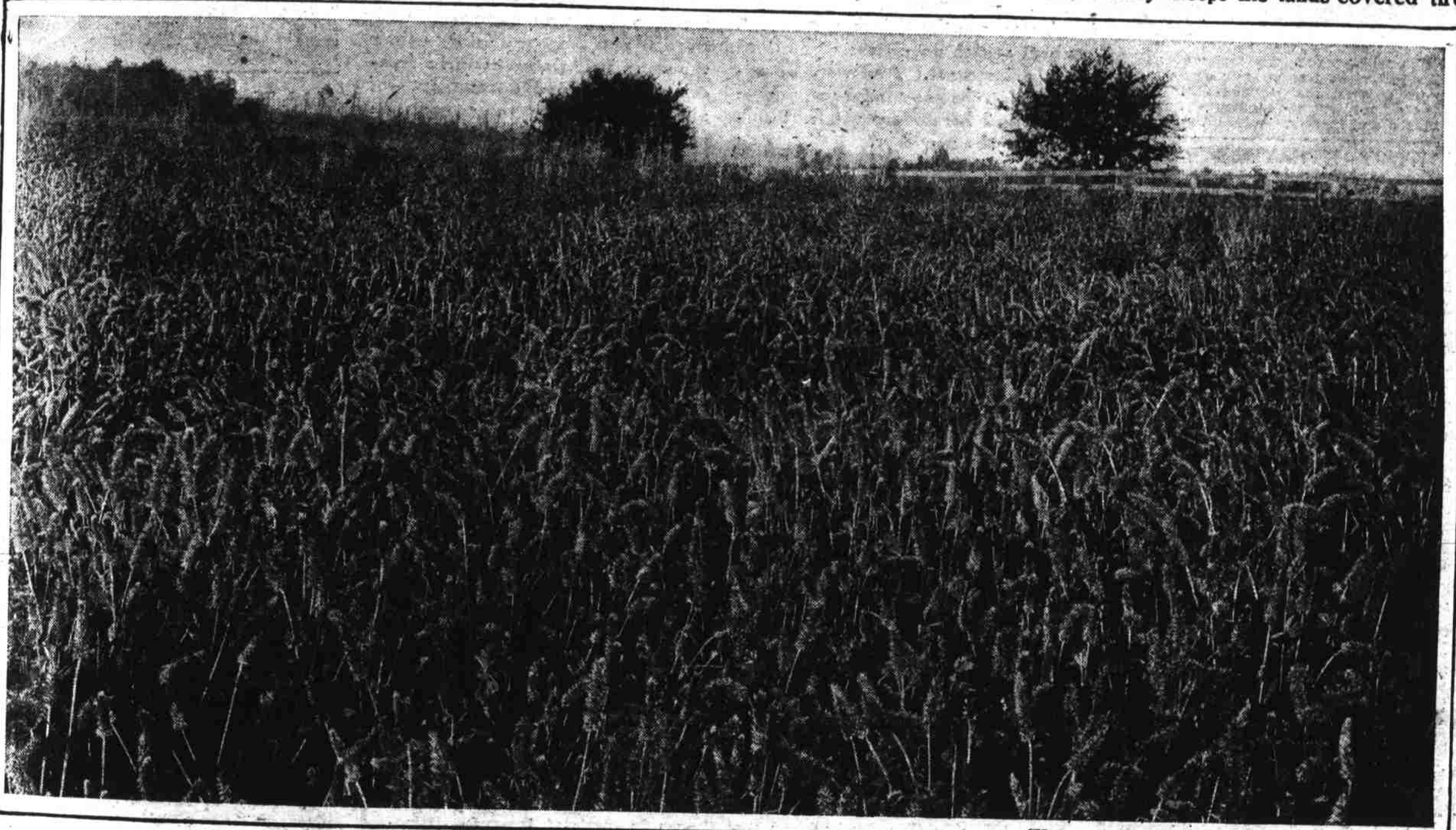
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Southern Farmers Must Learn Soil-saving and Soil-building

NO bigger agricultural problem confronts the South than that of soil-saving and soil-building. Upon the solution of this problem, in fact, rests our whole agricultural future. If we can save our favored sections. We never have a time, in fact, when it is not possible to have some soil-saving or soil-building crop growing on our fields, and the farmer who most nearly keeps his lands covered the



CRIMSON CLOVER TWO FEET HIGH ON SANDY LAND FARM OF J. K. TURNER, CULDMAN, ALABAMA

soil fertility and add to it, if we can raise our average yields to 25 and 30 bushels of corn and oats instead of our present 15 to 18 bushels, and two-thirds to a bale of cotton per acre instead of our present average of one-third of a bale, then we will be a prosperous people.

It will be years, possibly a generation or more, before our average yields will be doubled; but already there are thousands of good farmers scattered all over the South who are regularly averaging two-thirds, three-fourths and a bale of cotton and 25 to 35 bushels of corn per acre. These men have grasped the fundamental truth that it is only as we begin to rise above the average in crop production that net profits begin. As a consequence, these farmers live in comfortable homes, their farms are well stocked and equipped, and their sons and daughters are being well educated.

Our warm, wet climate makes soil wastage a far more serious problem here than it is in the colder, drier North. But the same climatic conditions also make it possible to restore soil fertility at a much more rapid rate than is possible in less

year round is usually the farmer who has rich soils and who makes big yields.

Our first choice of a cover crop would be a legume, because the legumes not only protect the land and keep plant foods from washing

away, but also add from 50 to 100 pounds per acre of nitrogen, the most expensive of all plant food elements and the one our Southern soils most sorely need. Crimson and bur clovers and vetch are our best winter legumes, and they will grow well on nearly all well drained soils in the Cotton Belt. Every farmer who possibly can should at least make a start this fall with one or more of them. Where the legumes are not planted, oats or rye should be used. Seed of these are comparatively cheap, stands are easy to get and their value in holding the land and in furnishing winter grazing is great.

Good farming—big yields at low costs—calls for soil-saving and soil-building. When we have grasped and applied this fundamental truth, we will be well along the way to success.

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