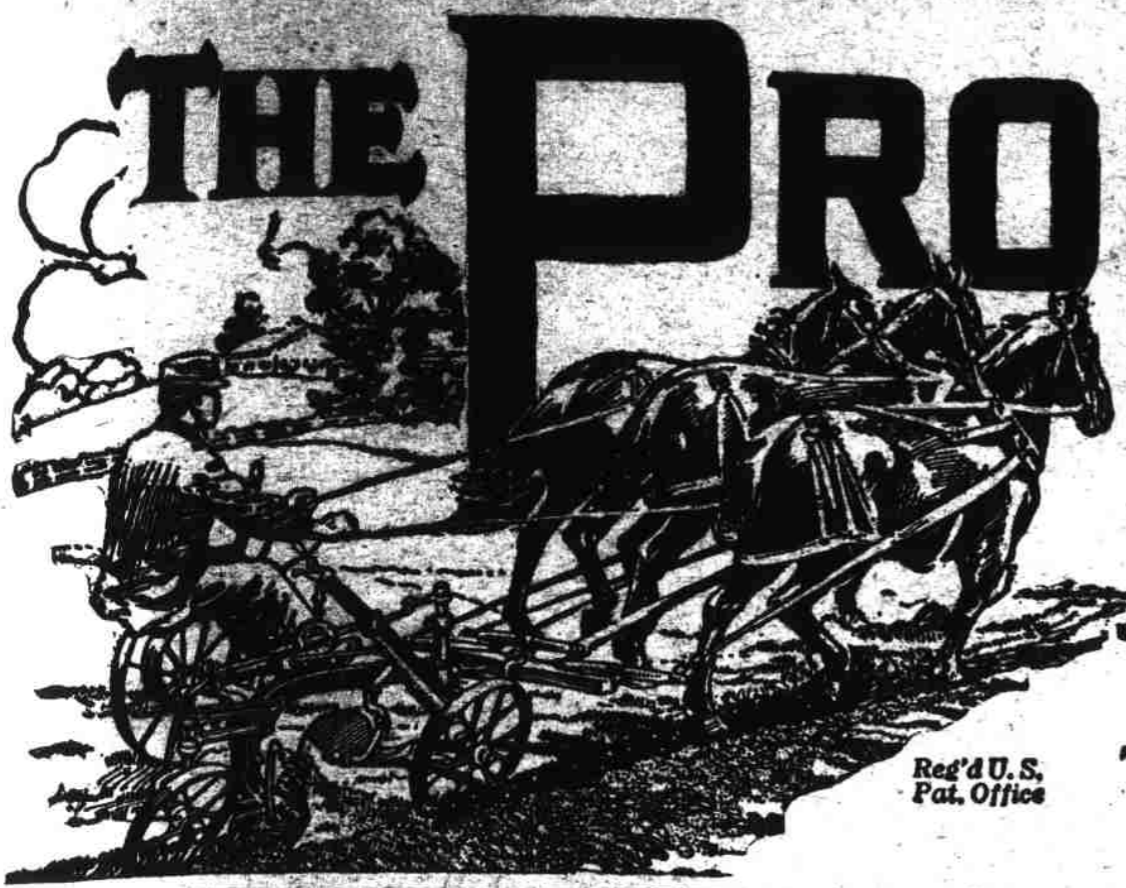


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BETTER PASTURES ESSENTIAL

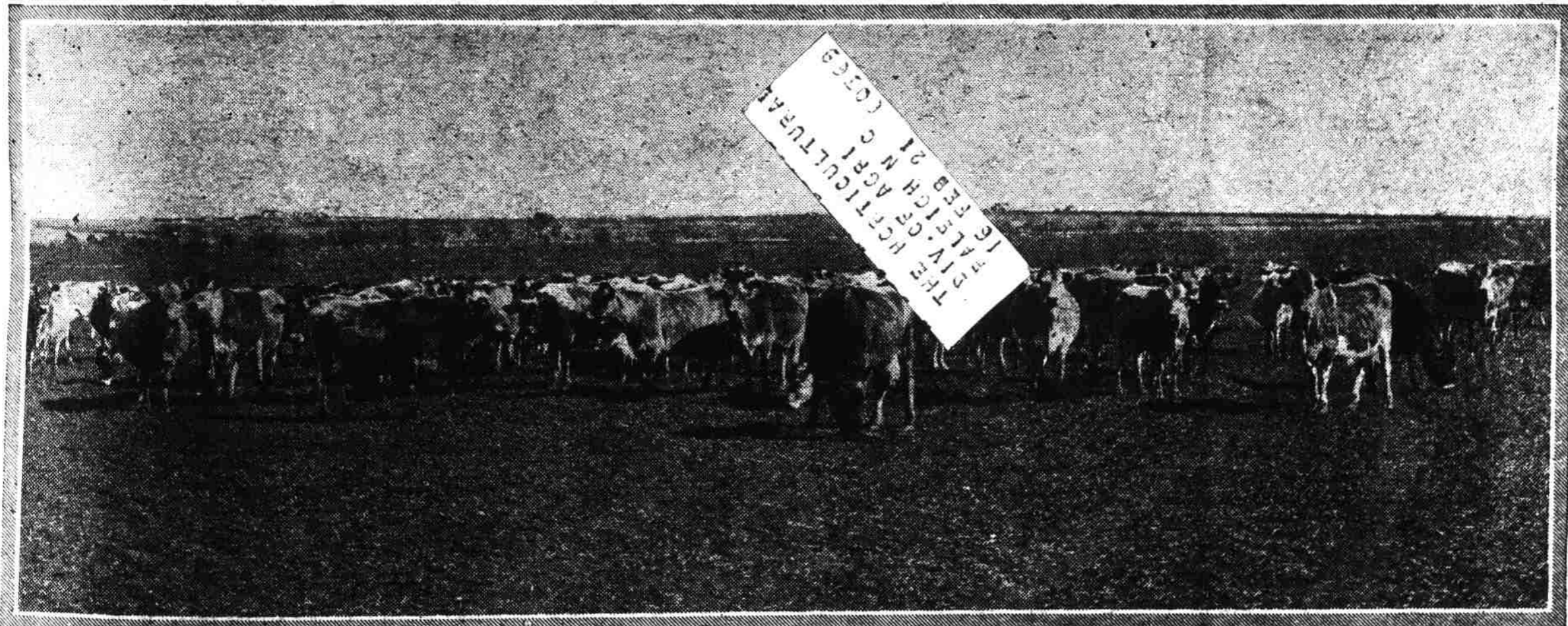
TAKING account of what our pastures are worth, the value they bring in each season in millions of pounds of beef, of pork, mutton, and poultry, of eggs, and gallons of milk, we find grass a good crop. The Alabama Experiment Station tests show gains ranging from 170 pounds to 268 pounds a head for steers on pasture alone during grazing seasons of 112 to 154 days. The bulk of Southern milk is produced on grass alone.

With the great area of idle lands producing to their capacity of good pasture grasses the Southern states could increase many times over their output of livestock and livestock products, and the income from pastures would far overshadow that from any other crop grown.

First, however, our task is to make the land already in pasture produce what it should. To do this, most of the South's farmers must get a new idea of what pastures are and are not. Many have yet to learn that a pasture is a crop to be planted on prepared land; to be fertilized and given such atten-

tion as a crop should have. When this is done the pasture will pay for the service.

1. to 32-inch woven wire with three to four barbed wires on top is used by many farmers.
2. Break the land. Disk it, and harrow it this fall.
3. If stable manure can be spared, spread it on the land. Spread at least a ton of ground limestone to the acre, and from 300 to 500 pounds of acid phosphate.
4. Where the land is fertile it can be sowed in oats, grass mixtures and clover this fall and next spring, and pastured lightly or not at all the first year. If it is poor, however, sow the land to rye and crimson clover this fall. This can be pastured during the winter when the ground is dry.
5. Let these crops get a good growth in the spring and plow them under to put some humus in the soil.



TURNING GRASS INTO MILK AT EIGHTY CENTS A GALLON

tion as a crop should have. When this is done the pasture will pay for the service.

A barren, gullied, weed infested hillside covered with bushes, and with only such volunteer grasses hardy enough to live under these conditions is not a pasture. Pasture can, however, and in most cases should, be made on the roughest thin lands unsuited to cultivated crops. A good grass sod is often the only crop that will hold such land together, improve it, and make a profit on it, year after year.

On the roughest lands where it is not practicable to prepare the ground thoroughly, a pasture of considerable value can be made by clearing off briars and bushes, running a furrow every few feet, and planting pieces of Bermuda grass roots, followed by a sowing of lespedeza and white clover seed over the soil. In the Coastal Plain area, carpet grass can be sowed in place of Bermuda.

To make the best pasture, however, plenty of work and right methods are necessary. On land that can be cultivated the following suggestions will be helpful in working out a pasture-plan.

Ten steps to the pasture—

1. Fence the land with a fence that will turn any kind of livestock. A 26

6. To fill in the season a crop of cowpeas can be grown and profitably cut for hay.

7. Prepare the land and plant a mixture somewhat like the following: From five to ten pounds each of orchard grass, red top, tall meadow fescue, white clover, bur clover, or red clover on lands suited to it, and alsike clover in low places. Substitute any grasses that grow well in your neighborhood for those that do not thrive. To provide a cover crop that will hold the soil together while the grasses are getting started, a bushel of oats is often sowed with the grass mixture.

8. Scatter Bermuda grass roots in the fall or spring and press them into the soil while it is wet or cover lightly. Sow a sprinkling of lespedeza seed in February or March. These crops form the basis of most Southern pastures.

9. Give the plants a chance to make a good sod before pasturing. It is better to mow the pasture for hay during the first year. This will pay a dividend, and make better grass.

10. You now have a pasture. Keep it a pasture by running the mower over it often enough to prevent weeds seeding, by fertilizing and reseeding thin spots, and mulching the galled places with straw or raked up weeds until the grass gets a start, and by not pasturing it too heavily.