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Leader
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Comments on Last Week's Paper

THE article by Mr. Phillips on page 23, concerning treatment of seed wheat for smut and thorough grading of all seed wheat, is full of good advice and indicates about all the individual farmer can do toward starting his wheat out right, so far as good seed will do it. But the treatments he mentions fall far short of meeting the needs of the time in the wheat growing sections of Piedmont and mountain. By far the most destructive pest of wheat in these sections is the loose smut that can be handled only with the hot water treatment. I believe it to be conservative to say that from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of the wheat heads of the Piedmont section are destroyed each year by this pest that is commonly known as "head blight." Treating seed wheat to rid it of this pest must be conducted in a very careful manner or the seed may be ruined and too, the outfit needed for the hot water treatment is too expensive for the average farmer to afford. I can see here a new field for the county demonstration agent in the wheat growing sections of our territory. Let the states establish seed treating plants in four or five sections of each wheat growing county with a reliable man in charge of each station under the direction of the county agent. Advertise the matter well in the local papers, at farmers' meetings, and by posters and so induce the farmers to take their seed wheat to these stations for treatment, charging just enough per bushel to cover actual cost of operating the plants and by this means I am firmly convinced we can raise our production per acre from two to six bushels. I hope before another wheat seeding season comes around such a system may be put in operation in all our wheat growing counties. The plants should be ready for work a month at least before seeding time in order that the majority of the farmers of each county may have their seed treated. I trust state and district agents will study over this matter.

The article concerning rural school improvement by "Subscriber" on page 18 is good and the people of his community are to be congratulated upon the patriotism shown and the results obtained. However, the people of no rural community should be obliged to take extra money out of the tax payers' pockets to give decent school advantages to the wards of the state—and all children of school age are the wards of the state and not the especial charge of the communities where their lot happens to be cast. This same rural community undoubtedly sends much of the products of its farms to be manufactured or traded in the cities, thus contributing to the wealth of the urban sections and, this being the case, it is no more than fair and just for the state to give the children of the producers of the raw products that go to enrich the state the same school advantages it does to the children in the communities where this wealth is concentrated.

All the articles concerning coöperative marketing on the editorial page are encouraging, but don't let us forget that an oversupplied world market can never be compelled to use our products at remunerative prices. So hand in hand with these coöperative selling movements must go a central organization, the business of which is to ascertain the world's probable needs in any line and pass this information back to the producers who must act on the advice given. Then with this in many cases should go a central publicity department the business of which is to acquaint the consuming public with the value to it of the various products, to the end

that consumption be maintained and increased when increase is warranted.

Dr. Butler's comments on the necessity of all parties in the livestock business being good judges of the products handled is based on sound common sense, and to what he has said I would but add this, that instructors in livestock judging should call especial attention at all times to the main essentials and give the minimum of attention to the fancy points or least essential factors in the make-up of the utility animal, for it is the utility animal that 95 per cent of our livestock people will have to deal with through life.

There is so much in the letter of John Nester on page 8 of vital moment to the man and woman who would own a home of their own that I want every renter who reads these comments to get the paper and read again that letter. There is not much silk shirt talk in that letter but it contains oceans of sound home building advice. I have never been able to eat my cake and keep it at the same time.

South Carolina Crop Yields

THE average yield of corn in South Carolina this year is 19 bushels per acre as compared with 16 bushels last year and 17 bushels in 1918, the total production being upward of 42,500,000 bushels. The average yield for the United States is 30.9 bushels per acre against 28.6 bushels in 1919. The total production this year is estimated at 3,199,126,000 bushels as compared with 2,917,450,000 bushels in 1919.

Weight per measured bushel of wheat and oats is reported at 59 and 31.8 pounds, respectively.

The average yield of potatoes in the state this season is estimated at 100 bushels per acre as against an average of 85 bushels in 1919, the average yield of sweet potatoes being 105 bushels per acre as against 90 bushels last year. The average yield of potatoes in the United States is 109.4 bushels per acre; sweet potatoes, 103.4 bushels per acre, total production of the former being 421,252,000 bushels, and the latter, 105,676,000 bushels.

The average yield of tobacco per acre in South Carolina this year is 650 pounds, the average for the United States being 793.9 pounds per acre.

Average yield of sorghum syrup for the state is reported at 100 gallons per acre; United States, 93.1 gallons per acre. Average yield of peanuts in South Carolina is 45 bushels per acre and the average for the United States 29.6 bushels per acre, or a total production of 37,463,000 bushels.

Estimates of acreage and production of the various crops in the state will appear in December report by counties. B. B. HARE, Agricultural Statistician for South Carolina.

Farmer Uses New Method in Unloading Lime

I HESITATED to buy lime for some time because those who did had a great deal of trouble to get it unloaded though they were better equipped than I. Nearly all had demurrage to pay though they had a much shorter haul than I had.

By the use of a pulley at the car door, a scraper, a rope and mule, I pulled the lime to the center of the car from each end. I also unloaded the trucks and wagons by use of a mule, this last operation requiring only four or five minutes per load.

In this way I was able to unload the 44-ton car with three wagons and two small trucks, an average haul of three miles, in three quarters of a day. This suggestion might be of use to others. FRANK WM. TAYLOR.

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